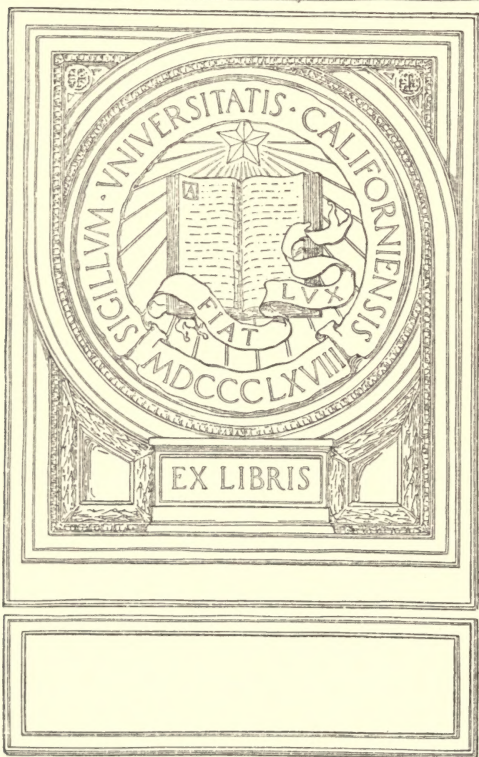




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WEBB



FAMILY LETTERS

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*The Webb House at Weatherfield.*



FAMILY LETTERS  
OF  
SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB  
1764-1807

EDITED BY  
WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD

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Professor Frederic H. Vason

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## NOTE

**I**N 1893-1894 I issued three volumes of the "Correspondence and Journals of Samuel Blachley Webb," based upon such papers of my grandfather as were then available. There recently came into my possession a number of family letters and papers, other than those used nearly twenty years ago. They supplement and complete the earlier volumes, which were concerned more closely with his military career, and especially with his experience as a prisoner of war on Long Island, and with the policy of British and Americans on exchanges of prisoners of war. This volume contains not a few military papers, and will deal with his relations to his family, his social life, and the conditions which marked the years after the War of Independence. The passage from colony to State, from a dependent to an independent people, and by a war which was fought with little general disturbance to the country, was yet disruptive of social conditions. The changes are outlined in these family papers by those who felt without understanding them, the best of recorders of such incidents. Believing that they constitute a valuable contribution to the history of social evolution in the first years of the Republic, I have placed them in Mr. Ford's hands for publication.

The three volumes of "Correspondence and Journals," a volume of "Social Notes," containing some of the "billets" or notes of invitation received by General Webb, and

this volume of "Family Letters," comprise all of interest in the Webb Papers in my possession. It is known that these surviving papers formed part of a very large mass of documents, and they must, therefore, be regarded as fragmentary. They cover a certain aspect of social environment which no other collection could cover in the same manner.

W. SEWARD WEBB.

## PREFACE

YOUNG SAMUEL BLACHLEY WEBB naturally followed the profession of his father, and sent ships to the West Indies laden with horses, wheat, and provisions, the chief articles exported from Connecticut.<sup>1</sup> On some of these ventures he went in person, and became acquainted with life in the islands, forming mercantile connections which promised future advantage, and mastering the elements of commerce under favorable conditions. To be engaged in trade with such men as Jeremiah Wadsworth of Connecticut and John Alsop of New York, opened a prospect of profitable and permanent success, for they commanded the confidence of their clients and possessed the needed capital. The one disturbing influence was his step-father, Silas Deane, whose political career is well known, but whose honesty in money matters becomes open to question in the light of letters printed in this volume. He appears to have appropriated to his own use what belonged to his wards, and no accounting was possible after he went to France. This circumstance plunged the Webbs into difficulties which nearly proved disastrous, for they were called upon to pay debts incurred by another, to settle accounts of which they had no record, and to assume responsibilities growing out of past transactions in which they could only feel that their

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<sup>1</sup> His career is more fully dealt with in the third volume of the *Correspondence and Journals*.

guardian had not protected their interest, if, indeed, he had not used the opportunity to his own gain. The unbalanced account book and the inevitable difficulties attending an unsettled estate again and again proved annoying and costly to the innocent sufferers.

Some of the documents relate to the period of Webb's imprisonment on Long Island. From the *Trumbull Papers* are drawn an account of his capture, due to no fault of his own, and the letters from his officers and fellow prisoners complement what was printed in the *Correspondence and Journals*. Irsome as were many features of his life on Long Island, he was not without some amusements and some advantageous social intercourse. The lottery in many charitable and religious forms came as near to offering excitement as was possible. He had access to such literature as was then approved, and through the printer of the *Royal Gazette*, the capable Rivington, he was able to obtain the latest issues of the English and the piratical Irish presses, as well as the best intelligence from Europe by the royalist newspapers and British magazines. There were theaters and places of amusement near New York to which he could resort, and at Flatbush could be found some loyalists noted for their generous hospitality, a circle which encouraged social gatherings where English and American met upon an equality. Webb was fortunate in having formed connections with the city before the war, and he found old acquaintances or their connections on the island, ready and happy to give him a welcome, and to relieve to the utmost of their ability the necessarily wearisome days of his durance. He felt the restraint of his captivity, and chafed under its restrictions, though those had been lightened as far as was consistent with



safety and discipline. He was at first inclined to blame his family, his friends, his commander, for their neglect and want of effort to release him, even under parole. In fact, no one could reasonably be blamed for the situation. His family did their utmost in sending him money, provisions, forage for his horse, and intelligence from his circle of friends. His friends were powerless to release him, for he was a prisoner of war, captured in an open and fair manner, and therefore subject to the routine of regulations which the rules of war imposed. These rules had not yet been so far defined as to permit of his exchange. The British would not frame a system of general exchanges, because by so doing they would recognize the Americans as belligerents, and they could look upon them only as rebels. Being of the Continental Army he was subject to the authority of Washington, and even Washington could not submit to other than a general exchange, regularly conducted upon perfectly equal terms. Such the English generals would not permit, and Webb, the individual, suffered. It was a simple matter to preach patience to him, but it was difficult to practice that virtue when the real cause of his being kept a prisoner remained unknown to him, and he was made aware only of the promises of release but not of the supreme difficulties to accomplishing it.

Webb's military enthusiasm was yet too fresh to permit him to accept the situation with complacency. Proud of his regiment, and possessing the full confidence of his men, he was eager again to take his place at its head, and again to tempt the fortunes of war. Perhaps he was not such a loser as he seemed to be. Military service in the Continental Army was most uncertain, and an officer was quite as likely to have only the privations without the glory, the

penalties without the rewards of bravery and devotion to duty. Webb's own regiment came to speak of the "hated Highlands," the most important military position of the North, but where a regiment grew rusty in garrison, and neither saw nor felt the stimulating service that marches and fighting give. Discipline was maintained, but it was a tiresome routine, offering little variety and broken only by a court martial or a foraging expedition. Besides, pay was low, was not regular, and often stood in heavy arrears; but expenses continued and the situation of the officers became worse each year. Even with the main army, where the heaviest demands were made upon the troops, victories were few and of little importance, the regular duties were exacting, and the spirit of the men was kept at a low ebb because of the uncertainty of the future. The private no longer came into service flushed with patriotic ardor for the cause and intent upon redressing wrongs which he felt and against which he had taken arms. He came under the bribe of a bounty and had only a little interest in doing more than the army regulations required. This was as true of the New England troops as of those from other States. In a few years the tone of the army had changed for the worse; it required a few more years of hardship and intense suffering and sacrifice to produce the army that closed the war, an army of which any people could be proud, and a body of officers and men that in peace proved their high ideals and their worth to the Union as fully as they had proved their qualities in war.

No stone was left unturned to secure Webb's release, but nothing could be done until a great concession was made by the British and he came out of New York on parole. This meant only another form of inaction, for he

could not serve at the head of his regiment, and he was liable to be called back to Long Island at any time, and upon a frivolous pretext. An indiscretion committed by an officer in Carolina might result in the English general's issuing an order for the immediate return of all prisoners on parole. Such a situation reduced him to inaction. Reports of the condition of his regiment could be made to him, and he could offer his advice when asked. He was able to visit his companions in arms, and in New Jersey found a congenial circle where he contracted a servitude which sweetened his days and gave him a loving and loyal wife. Elizabeth Bancker united the praises of all who knew her, and the short life given to her after marriage made the beauty of her character the greater. In the hope of saving her from death both the American and British commanders relaxed the regulations laid down to govern intercourse, and Webb on this sad voyage enjoyed the sense of sympathy from foe as well as from friend.

It is not necessary to trace in detail the events that followed Webb's release from his captivity with the British. The last years of the war brought hard service, and few opportunities for brilliant actions. He labored much over his regiment, and gained praise for its good appearance, discipline, and manual performances. He was given the command of the Light Infantry, and, huddled on the banks of the Hudson, took his share of camp and guard service. It was not all toil. A ball, a supper, a feast on some dainties sent from friends, and the usual sports of winter and summer broke the monotony. He was fortunate in his friends, and to Mrs. Greene and Mrs. Knox, the leaders of social pleasures, his relations were close. Before the disbanding of the army he had a very wide circle of friends and a still

wider one of acquaintances, and from all sections of the Confederation. He laid down his commission with regret, and his son inherited his liking for a military career.

Removing to New York, Webb sought to form connections that might establish him in some business calling. Too little is known of the steps he took in this direction, but Jeremiah Wadsworth appears to be his sponsor, and a better could not be desired. Either the opening was not so good as it promised to be, or the adventurers were alarmed by the uncertainties of all trade; for Webb remained without active employment, and his ambition led him to seek public office. Again the conditions were against him. The number of offices under the Continent was small, and the applicants many. The prospects of the holders did not appear bright, as the Congress was sinking into a state of hopelessness, scorned and neglected by the States, and having no power of gaining strength and authority. The formation of a federal government did not materially alter the conditions. Again the positions were not sufficient to meet the demand, and the rewards were given as seemed best to the authorities. Webb naturally felt some disappointment, but accepted the situation without murmuring. With Richard Platt and others he engaged in buying soldiers' notes and State promises to pay, a very uncertain form of securities, and yet offering good profit when judiciously purchased. With Judge Hogeboom he speculated in land claims and with success. His old comrades made demands upon him, knowing his generosity and kindly tact. One would borrow money, another would borrow his horse or hunting outfit. Now he would be called upon to settle some business matter, for banking operations and the machinery of credit were little known; and



again he would be employed to smooth over some love affair that threatened disaster to one of the parties. Nor were his own concerns always without responsibilities, and once, at least, he fought a duel to establish his own position in a matter which certainly did not call for so great a sacrifice as life. At all times he was ready to preside over a feast; to serve on the managing committee for the inauguration ceremonies of 1789, when his chief took the oath as the first President of the United States; or to conduct a speculation.

In no respect did the war result in more arbitrary acts than in those affecting the ownership and transfer of property. A loyalist forced to retire within the British lines or to leave the country could only expect to lose the use of and even his right to his lands and chattels. The cruel laws of confiscation passed in many of the States fixed upon him and his family a stigma of ill-repute as well as inflicted a serious property loss. These laws and the disturbances introduced by war and a resort to paper money gave every opportunity to the dishonest debtor and the unscrupulous speculator. The honest creditor suffered in his payments as well as in his receipts; debts were outlawed or repudiated; the war prevented the payment as well as the collection of debts, suspending action or giving an opening to escape responsibilities. Webb was made to feel this by the situation in which Richard Bancker's property was left. A merchant of good reputation in New York, and with an English connection, he had traded extensively and become the agent for employing the capital of others, for the colonies offered a higher rate of profit than could be gained in England. His sudden death left his affairs in confusion, and the war prevented an arrangement which



could satisfy the creditors. The property was in the city of New York, and rents could not be collected; the lands outside of New York were either too near the seat of hostilities to be profitable, or too remote to be so directly managed as to make returns. After the peace payments were demanded, and on Webb fell the responsibility of meeting them. Only a glimpse here and there of those matters are afforded by these papers; but it is evident that the final settlements were satisfactory to all, although they demanded anxious care and a heavy sacrifice of properties at times when only a part of their value could be obtained. For years after the peace the financial concerns of the country remained in disorder, affecting all private business and all forms of commercial dealings. The disasters were many and widespread.

Among those affected was his brother, Joseph Webb. He had been a trusted agent by the State and the Continent during the war, and had on many occasions taken a flag into New York for the relief of the American prisoners there, or to answer the many calls that such missions imply. These flags were given only to the most trusted, for the temptation to abuse the privilege proved too strong for the weak. He had many acquaintances, as well as friends, among the British, and he was a welcome visitor, even if he were not on an errand of mercy but in the performance of some routine of intercourse between hostile camps. He obtained a large contract for leather from the commissary department of the American army, and fulfilled his contract to the letter, something worthy of mention in that day when the contractors, as they can do in war times, were accumulating large gains. He lived in comfort and had all the employment he could desire. With the return of peace

conditions changed much. The army contract was terminated, and left him with a plant all too large for ordinary service, and difficult to manage at a profit. The old trade debts of Silas Deane came up for settlement, and the books of accounts were wanting. His former partner, John Alsop, pressed for payment of a debt, the real nature of which is not shown by the letters, but in all probability dating before the war. The son of John Simpson, a loyalist who had sought refuge in the British lines, demanded his supposed share of the father's estate, a part of which he claimed to be represented by goods sent to Webb in 1775, when hostilities first broke forth. Jesse Deane, the son of Silas Deane, and half-brother of the Webbs, called for a settlement of the Deane estate, about which little was known save that Deane had managed it for his own advantage. The State demanded its taxes and in cash, a commodity difficult to obtain. This pressure all came at a time when business was anything but profitable and when discontent and real suffering were generally felt in Connecticut. The story of the consequences is fully told in the following pages. The wicked law of imprisonment for debt enabled Alsop to seize upon the body of his creditor, and Joseph Webb, unfortunate and not guilty of any wrong or deception, suffered a short imprisonment which threatened to break his spirit and ruin him entirely and finally. His trial was a short one, soothed by brotherly and friendly attention, and he came from the gaol with renewed courage and succeeded in meeting all his creditors and again building up a successful business. The story is well worth preserving, because it pictures the disturbed commerce of the day and the hardships it imposed upon those who were unable to meet its uncertainties. It also shows a man who re-

tained through all his trials the confidence of his friends and his position in the community.

In Webb's career a series of chance occurrences may apparently be traced. A mercantile career was closed by the war. He had an opportunity to win military glory, but his captivity interfered. He almost secured the post of Secretary at War under the Confederation, and would have received the appointment had not General Knox's necessities obliged him to take it. He considered going with Winthrop Sargent to the Western country, and thus becoming identified with the frontier, but his marriage fixed him in the East, and led him to the Hudson where he passed the later years of his life. His early property was wasted by his step-father, Silas Deane, and the creditors of his wife's father, Richard Bancker, whom he never saw, demanded payment of long-standing debts from him. Never possessed of large means, he had more than a competency, gained by his good management and foresight, and with what he had he was generous to those less fortunate, and generous to those he loved.

Few of Webb's own letters appear in this volume. It is known that he wrote many, but he kept copies of few, even when important business matters were involved. That his family letters were constant and interesting the former volumes proved; his regimental correspondence and reports contained all that the requirements of service demanded; his business letters covered a wide range of subjects — trade, lotteries, privateering, speculation in lands and in public securities, and the management of properties of others; his social and friendly letters were numerous, sympathetic, and helpful, and are known only by the responses they called out. The mere names of his

correspondents whet the appetite of those interested in history, social and personal, and what remains of the original mass awakens regret that the whole was not preserved from the chance that threatens every form of written historical record.

Such a collection of papers serves many useful purposes, however fragmentary and unrelated they may appear. The value lies in the light thrown upon social conditions. A New England town, Wethersfield was as a hundred like places until it becomes differentiated by persons and incidents. Military service can be described mechanically from the book of tactics and discipline; but it becomes instinct with life when described by an active participant in the service, whether in garrison or in the field. A table of figures will give the fluctuations in the prices of public securities, but only from an investor who has staked his money on the event can the effects of the fluctuations be felt and measured. His hopes and his fears, his calculations and forecasts, give life to the dull figures, even though they without doubt exaggerate the movement. A friendly letter affords a mention of customs and manners too trivial for the historian, yet essentially a part of the daily life of the people. Even in the sorrows and tragedies of the individual, characters may be drawn and traits studied as no other means could afford.

In no respect is the change in manners more marked than in the pleasures in which they indulged. Lebanon Springs was a true health resort, and not a place where the mildly ill offered an excuse for a thousand other indulgences. Horse riding and racing, card playing, a turtle dinner occasionally, a ball or assembly, the hunting of game and the exchange of visits — such were the simpler life in a Con-



necticut town. At New York the social pleasures and the range of activities were greater. The differences caused by the war were soon forgotten, and loyalist again took his place in business and in society, claiming and receiving the attention his worth and abilities could command. The names of the leaders in New York ran back into the history of the earliest colonizers, Dutch and English; they have been continued to the present day and are woven into the tissue of New York's later history. The city soon forged ahead of its rivals and, favored by situation, by the enterprise of its citizens, and by the tapping of the great Western regions, became the metropolis it now is. In this growth Webb had but little part, for his health, never robust, obliged him to seek a quieter surrounding. After his second marriage he settled at Claverack, New York, and there found a congenial circle. He took a mild interest in the tangled politics of the day, but seems not to have sought preferment for himself. Perhaps the career of a member of Congress or of the State legislature held out little inducement to incur the partisan abuse that arose from the contest between Hamilton and Burr, the federalist and the democratic, the "natural" aristocrat, and the up-country equality-man. There is no record of his taking an active part with either side, though all his leanings must have been with the Federalists, whose strength so largely depended upon his old army comrades and the men who had been prominent in civil life during the years of the war. His family, his friends, and his farm, his circle of social and agricultural duties and pleasures sufficed to keep him occupied, contented, and a good citizen. The end came in December, 1807.

WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD.

Boston, October, 1912.



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# FAMILY LETTERS

RICHARD NEAVE AND SON TO RICHARD BANCKER.

Copy Origl <sup>W</sup> York.

LONDON, 3d April, 1764.

Sir:

Since ours by Davis we have not received any of your favours. This serves to inclose you Invoice and Bill Lading for sundrys shipped on board the *York*, Capt. Peter Berton, for New York amounting to, with full Insurance, £3073. 8. 4, which we wish safe to your hands and satisfaction. You will by this opportunity hear that an act of Parliament has passed within these few days, laying a duty on many articles imported into N. America and the islands, for taking off about 5 per cent of the Draw-Back usually allowed on Callicoes, and a small part of the Draw-Back on Foreign Linnens, which was out of the power of the Merchts, and Traders of this city to prevent, altho they made a very considerable opposition. We remain very respectfully, Sir, Your most hble servts,

RICHD. NEAVE & SON.

Addressed: To Mr. Richard Bancker, Mercht. in New York.

---

THOMAS PALMER TO RICHARD BANCKER.

CORNWALL PRECINCT, 11 April, 1772.

Sir:

The snow has but very lately left the face of the ground here. And since, the rivers and swamps has been so very



full of water, which has prevented my proceeding on your survey. I determine, however, to begin the 15th inst. I have wrote a joint letter to the Proprietors in Genl. concerning the new proposed settlement,<sup>1</sup> and directed it to Mr. Leffirts, which he will soon show you, to which I refer you for perticulars in that respect.

I take the liberty to inclose you 60 tickets with a scheme of our Lottery, No. from 1611 to 1640, as also from No. 1861 to 1890; and as this Lottery is to support the cause of religion, and as our congregation is under real necessity for raising that sum, it may justly be considered a charitable act in those who would be pleased to favour us with their acceptance of a few of them. If you, Sir, would be favourably pleased to mention it to your friends, perhaps you may dispose of this few. Pardon me for giving you this trouble, but as it is but a modest way of begging you will excuse, sir, Your most humble Servant to Command,

THOS. PALMER.

Addressed: To Mr. Richard Bancker, Mercht., New York. Per favour Capt. Pease.

---

FROM WAT STEWART.

GIBRALTAR BAY, February 10th, 1773.

Dear Sam:

After professing a friendship for each other I should think myself deficient on my part, if I did not the first opportunity acquaint you that the unbounded Ocean rowls betwixt us; that the 3000 Miles do part us, and that two months has passed since I last saw you; yet you

---

<sup>1</sup> At Kayaderossares.

are still alive in my remembrance. I'm writing this in the Bay formed by the famed rock of Gibraltar, and altho I know myself incapable of describing it in a manner adequate to many descriptions you undoubtedly have seen, shall notwithstanding as I engaged attempt it. Gibraltar is a rocky small Peninsula, whose Isthmus is a narrow sandy nook of land about three miles in length, which joins it to the main land, and in part forms the Bay. This Beach is called the Spanish lines, from the Spaniards having three or four batterys on it. The rock is situate in A[n]dalusia, the southernmost province in Spain, and is the southermost extremity of that province. Lying on the very end of Europe's point this rock is one of the pillars of hercules. Mount abile, a Mountain opposite in Africa, is the other. Gibraltar is now called the key of the Straights, therefore has a key for its arms. The Bay at the entrance is about three miles wide, but widens as you enter it. The water where Merchantmen anchor is from three to six fathoms deep within a mile of the Old Mole head, the northernmost landing place, there being but three places where you can land. There's now seven regiments of soldiers and six companys of the royal train of arteliry. I imagine there is about 450 peices of cannon now mounted, and they are building new batterys. Every day 390 men is constantly on guard within call of each other. The garrison is supplied with fresh provisions from Barbary, such as oxen, sheep, fowls and pigeons. Herbage of all kinds is brought from Spain. Their firing is coals, brought some from Spain, but mostly from England. Salt provisions comes from Ireland and America, also butter and cheese [*seal*] many Jews live there and have a Synagogue; the Spaniards have a church, also the

English. There's all hands round me engaged in different topics of discourse, laughing and talking sailor like. We've just done supper, and drinkt a merry glass. You shall have a longer Epistle next time. I am with the greatest respect your Sincere friend,

WAT STEWART.

P. S. I had like to forgot the Dutch and Emperor of Morocco is at war. There's three or four Dutch men of war now lying here to convoy merchantmen up further.

W. S.

Addressed: To Mr. Samuel Web, in Middletown To the care of Mr. Willm. Stewart.

---

FROM CHARLES WHITING.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sammy:

Your half mumbled, half retracted promise you made me the morning I parted with you at Weathersfield, of coming down this week, I am not much disappointed to find you dont comply with. However when we catch you here, my boy will have interest for the delay. You must live happily, or at least agreeably, whilst the little circle that surrounds your fireside confers all that exalted joy and pure satisfaction which fine sense, good humor and affability can afford.

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Whiting was of Middletown, Conn., and was an adjutant in the 2d Regiment, or Colonel Joseph Spencer's, in 1775. He served as secretary to General Spencer, and left the army in December, 1775. In 1776 he reinlisted in Wyllys' regiment, became aide de camp to General Spencer, and was commissioned captain, February 14, 1777. He died in service July 10, 1779.

O Sam! doesn't your heart bleed at the thought of the time when you must leave so sweet a society? But I will not be the author of a suggestion which may occasion you to anticipate the pangs of parting, in themselves, alas! too severe for your feeling heart, but in friendship's name what am I about.

The wife of our worthy friend and neighbor Mr. Meigs<sup>1</sup> ere you receive this will be numbered with the dead. She is now in the apprehension of her friends in the distressful agonies of death, paying the unavoidable debt of nature, and undergoing the unexceptionable lot of humanity. O, that we who live might lay it to heart, and be suitably affected by such alarming instances of mortality. May not the avocations of business or the allurements of diversion so engross our attention and time, as to prevent our giving our future concerns an habitual and serious regard.

I hope in a few days at farthest to see my dear friend, and take a contemplative stroll on the banks of our delightful river. Remember what I mentioned at parting, etc. Be so good as to pay Bill May, the saddler, who works opposite your brother's store, 5/6 for a bridle I purchased of him.

Tell your good brother Mrs. Hosmer<sup>2</sup> takes 15 yards of the green stuff, and with the remainder of that returns the whole of the other piece, which does not suit. Have

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<sup>1</sup> Return Jonathan Meigs (1734-1823), who served through the War of Independence, and after the peace removed to Ohio. He passed the last years of his life among the Cherokees, whose agent he was, and died in Georgia.

<sup>2</sup> Wife of Titus Hosmer (1736-1780), who is ranked among the leading men of Connecticut in the Revolution.



not had an earlier opportunity presented, or should have forwarded them before.

One request more and then, desire you would speak to Mr. Stanley immediately on the receipt of this, and beg of him to have my surtout finished to send down on Monday by Richard Hamlin, the bearer of this. If not, bring it me your own dear self. Make my respects acceptable to your brother, sisters and Miss Johnson, and believe me to be, dear Sam, with the firmest affection, Yours,

CHAS. WHITING.

P. S. Write me by Mr. Hamlin or post.

Saturday 1 o'clock P. M. Oct. 30th, 1773.

Addressed: Mr. Samuel B. Webb, at Wethersfield. Per Mr. Hamlen.

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NOTE.

We underwritten, De Mauregnault & Cusson Co., partners, acknowledge to be indebted to Mr. Samuel Webb the sum of Twenty Thousand Livres, which said sum we oblige ourselves to pay to his order five weeks after date, in good merchandable Molasses, or good Spanish and Portugal Gold, having the weight as customary in this Island, the value received in forty Horses, at five hundred Livres per horse.

DE MAUREGNAULT & CUSSON.

ST. NICHOLAS MOLE, 11th December, 1773.



RICHARD NEAVE AND SON TO RICHARD BANCER.

Copy. Original per Hill.

LONDON, 25th January, 1774.

Sir:

Your favor of 6th November per Capt. Lawrence came to hand, with the Deeds which have been executed in Capt. Lawrence's presence by Mrs. Stables and Miss Spyers, &c. which would have been the finishing stroke to them if the executing them by yourself and Mrs. Bancker had been recorded in New York; for which purpose they now go back to Mr. Neave, Junior, by the *Minerva*, Capt. Hill. The recording them here can be of no use at all.

My good Sir, I note Bills were not to be had when you wrote by Capt. Lawrence, but you would soon doubtless meet with some. I shall only say I have no doubt of your commiserating our situation and exerting yourself to help us to the utmost of your power, as the only thing that will put us in a way to do business again. I am with great respect, Sir, Your assured Frd Hble Servt.,

RICHD NEAVE & SON.

Addressed: To Mr. Richard Bancker, Merchant in New York.

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ACT OF ASSEMBLY.<sup>1</sup>

Mar. 1774.

Upon the memorial of Silas Dean, of Weathersfield, administrator of the goods and estate of Mehitable Dean late of said Weathersfield, deceas'd, and of Joseph Webb,

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<sup>1</sup> *Colonial Records of Connecticut*, XIV, 285.

Sarah Webb, Mehitabel Webb, Samuel Blackesly Webb, John Webb, Abigail Webb and Jesse Dean, all of said Weathersfield, children and heirs of said Mehitabel, which said Samuel is a minor and appears by his guardian Titus Hosmer of Middletown, and said Mehitabel, John, Abigail and Jesse are likewise minors, and appear by their guardian the said Silas Dean, and of Anne Mix, executrix of the last will and testament of Ebenezer Mix late of Hartford, deceas'd, and of John Mix and Elisha Mix, children of said Ebenezer and minors, who appear by said Anne their guardian, shewing that said Ebenezer in his life time mortgaged to said Mehitabel two certain pieces of land, one lying in Hartford containing about eighty acres, the other lying in Farmington containing about three hundred acres, by deed dated the 28th day of June, 1762, defeasible on payment of the sum of £415. 10. 11, lawful money, on two notes of hand given by said Ebenezer to said Mehitabel, and that there is now due on said mortgage the sum of £571. 2. 8½, lawful money, which cannot be paid but by sale of said lands; that said Ebenezer in his life time conveyed his equity of redemption by deed to said John Mix and Elisha, and that by reason of the incapacity of said minors the said lands cannot be conveyed to purchasers and praying that said Anna and Silas may be authorized and impowered to make sale of so much of said mortgaged premises as will raise the said sum of £571. 2. 8½ with the interest thereof till paid; and the same being paid or secured to said Silas as administrator of said Mehitabel Dean, for the use of said children and heirs of said Mehitabel, that thereupon the said Silas be enabled to release the right of said minor heirs of said Mehitabel to said John and Elisha etc., as

per memorial on file: Resolved by this Assembly, that the said Silas and Anne have liberty and authority, and liberty and authority is hereby granted to said Silas and Anne, to sell so much of said mortgaged premises as will raise the sum of £571. 2. 8½ with the interest thereof till paid and incident charges of sale, and to give a deed or deeds accordingly, and that the monies arising on said sale or sales being paid or secured to be paid to said Silas as administrator of said Mehitabel Dean and that the said Silas shall have liberty and authority by his deed of release to convey to the said John Mix and Elisha Mix all the residue of the title of said minor children of said Mehitabel Dean to said mortgaged premises, and that all deeds made pursuant to and by virtue of this act shall be good and effectual in law for the sure holding of the estates therein conveyed.

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

MOLE ST. NICHOLAS, July 1st, 1774.

Dear Sir:

Your affairs here do not wear so favorable an aspect as I could wish. Ingan is dead, and his estate will not pay all his debts. Ducass is mate of the Sloop Guarda-Cost, and has promised to pay his note soon. Jaque Chenill has had his vessel run away with, but has (Mauregnault says) lately wrote him from the Cape that he will soon be here and pay his in part. Pittitus is in the Bite expected here soon. If he comes shall get his. Ravison is a good note; shall send to him at Port au Paix, if he dont come here soon. Mauregnault stands his ground on the old

spot, but does less business, yet I believe with more profit.<sup>1</sup> I am, dear sir, your very humble servant,

JERE WADSWORTH.

[For prices current, turn over.]

Pork, beef, tallow, lard, 400/

Staves long, 130/ to 220/ short 100/

Per M — hoops 180/ to 190/ bords 150/ to 180/

Molasses 23 sols, coffee 13 @ 15, indico, 11/ to 11/6

Sugar 32/ to 33/

Addressed: Mr. Samuel B. Webb, Merchant, Wethersfield, Connecticut. Sent per Capt. Z. Stocking.

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SILAS DEANE TO WILLIAM COOPER.

WETHERSFIELD, July 4th, 1774.

Sir:

Yours of the 28th ultimo inclosing the proceedings of the Town of Boston I received, since which have not seen any of our Committee;<sup>2</sup> consequently have nothing to write you from them. They are to meet the 13th instant at New London, to appoint Deputies to attend the general Congress, agreeable to the direction given them by the Honorable House of Representatives for this Colony at

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<sup>1</sup> Webb had visited Mole St. Nicholas in the January previous, and Wadsworth appears to have joined him there. See *Correspondence and Journals of Samuel Blachley Webb*, I, 17. In subsequent notes this work will be referred to as Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*.

<sup>2</sup> The Committee of Correspondence in Connecticut. The names of the members are given in Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, I, 10 n, and in the same volume will be found the extremely valuable letters received in the year 1774.



their last session.<sup>1</sup> The designs of the Ministry doubtless are to drive the inhabitants of your town and province to the dreadful alternative of resisting force with force, or of absolute submission to arbitrary and even military Government. There is a report that your Governor<sup>2</sup> has declared his design of being present and active at the Congress. His late Proclamation<sup>3</sup> gives probability to such design, which if he in earnest means to pursue, I think it ought to be known previous to the meeting of the Congress, that they who are deputed may know what to depend on at their meeting. There is the greatest possible unanimity in this Colony and I think the similarity of sentiment and apprehension throughout this Continent at this time, as it exceeds even what might have been expected, so it is a most encouraging omen for good. These Colonies in their infancy were enabled to struggle through and overcome difficulties and opposition, everything considered, great as those of the present day, solely under Providence on their confederating together, and acting as one body with one Common Interest in View, and with that Unanimity and firmness which is ever the Result of true Patriotic Virtue. The same causes will doubtless have the same effect, and nothing will or can possibly prevent if we have not degenerated from the Virtue of our Ancestors. I am with esteem, Sir, your Most Humb Servt.

For Wm. Cooper, Esq.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See *Journals of the Continental Congress* (Ford), I, 17, 18.

<sup>2</sup> General Thomas Gage was governor of Massachusetts at this time.

<sup>3</sup> Gage's proclamation, issued at Salem, June 29. The text is in *Proc. Mass. Hist. Soc.*, XII, 47.

<sup>4</sup> The letter is in the writing of Webb. Cooper (1720-1809), son of the Rev. William Cooper, served as Town Clerk of Boston for nearly half a century.



## AGREEMENT FOR PASSAGE.

Articles of Agreement made, indented and concluded on this [ <sup>1</sup> ] Day of December, in the Fifteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God King of Great Britain, &c., &c., and in the year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Four, Between James Ackland, Commander of the ship *York*, of the one part, and Ann Farteshew of the other part as follows: and first he the said James Ackland doth hereby covenant, and promise, and agree, and with the said Ann Farteshew, to carry her in his said ship to New York (the risk of the Sea excepted), and to provide her with good wholesome Meat, Drink, and Bedding during the said voyage, and untill she shall arrive at New York aforesaid; she the said Ann Farteshew paying unto him, the said James Ackland, at and after the rate of Twelve Pounds Twelve shillings sterling for her passage, and that the said payment shall be made by her, the said Ann Farteshew, within Ten days after her arrival at New York aforesaid. But if default of payment by her, the said Ann Farteshew, within the limited time aforesaid; she, the said Ann Farteshew, doth hereby authorize and empower him, the said James Ackland, or his Assigns, to bind her to such a Master in any of His Majesty's Provinces in North America, as he or they shall chuse for the term of four years, to be computed from her arrival at New York aforesaid; and that she will at the cost of him, the said James Ackland, or his Assigns, sign any necessary Indenture for that purpose; and that during the Term of her Servitude as aforesaid, she will truly serve

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<sup>1</sup> Blank.

her said Master and act in all respects as a faithfull Servant. Provided always, that if she shall pay unto him the said James Ackland, or his Assigns, the sum of Twelve Pounds Twelve shillings sterling within Ten days after her arrival at New York as aforesaid, that immediately from and after such payment she shall be free as if the said Clause concerning the Servitude for four years had never been made. And for the *true* performance of the premises Each party binds himself in the sum of Thirty Pounds sterling of lawfull money of Great Britain, to be payed by the party not performing.

Signed in the Presence of  
JOHN RUSSELL.

JAMES ACKLAND.

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FROM JOHN SIMPSON.<sup>1</sup>

Wednesday, After Dinner, 29 Mar. '75.

By the time which this is dated you may conclude, my Dear Brother, that I am rather unfitt for writing letters; but as nothing would excuse me from it when I have met with such friendly civilities from you, I will go on to answer your letter, or rather to give you my opinion upon the subject you wrote on. To proceed then, I think the conduct of S[ilas] D[eane] very extraordinary and derogatory to the character he has allways enjoyed. I cannot conceive of any good reason for His behaviour, and more especially, after such a possitive promise of seeing you the next day for the purpose of settling the affair, to go of

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<sup>1</sup> Married Webb's sister, Sarah. See references to him in Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, index; also Sabine, *Loyalists of the American Revolution*, II, 303.

and leave you without the least reason therefor seems to me to be very wrong and ought not to be readily excused. I think you should press pretty hard for a settlement, and in the mean time write Dr. Johnson<sup>1</sup> to hold himself engaged for us in case of necessity, as I fear His Mr. D[eane]'s fear of your having already done it was to sound you, that in case it was not so that he might himself engage those attorneys who have the most influence, and by his pretended fear keep you in a state of supposed security, and in the meantime undermine till the House fall. Your affairs are more particularly engaged here, therefore I expect more from you than Jo:

I beg you will by the return of the Post send me an answer what you will do respecting my goods; wether you determine to spend the summer at home and take'em to sell for me on commission, or what else, as it's of consequence for me to know very soon lest we be overtaken in the fit of drowsiness. Inform me likewise what situation you think best and the commission. Wethersfield appears to me best, as it is nearer the centre.<sup>2</sup>

Having nothing further to add I must conclude, and that sincerely I am Yr Affec. Bro.,

JOHN SIMPSON.

P. S. I will send you the pouch if I can get the Post to take it.

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<sup>1</sup> William Samuel Johnson (1727-1819), of Stratford, long the leading lawyer in Connecticut. Before the peace he became president of Columbia College, New York, but ill health compelled him to resign that office in 1800. His letters to the governors of Connecticut are printed in 5 *Mass. Hist. Collections*, IX, 213.

<sup>2</sup> Simpson had visited the place only a week before. Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, I, 51, where one of his letters is reproduced.

FROM JOHN SIMPSON.

Dear Bro:

Wednesday Evening, 5 April, '75.

As the hour is late I must be very brief. To begin then I was much disappointed in not receiving an answer from you respecting my goods, more particularly as the posts are shortly to be shutt up, so that there will be no such thing as transporting things from one colony to another.<sup>1</sup> However I have ventured to order them to your Brother, and if you incline to take the care of em and sell them for me, I beg you will let me know it and the commission you expect; for [if] it is inconvenient to you to take charge of em, I will send my Clerk up with them. I would prefer your care of them to his, and if for your interest hope you will stay at home this ensuing summer. Dont fail of answering me by the return of the Post in the affirmative or negative, that I may know what to do. I congratulate you on the more agreeable apearance of the Estate affairs, and hope you will be able to settle them amicably. Adieu, I will be glad to see you whenever convenient to come to town. Yr Afft. Br.,

JOHN SIMPSON.

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FROM JOHN SIMPSON.

My Dear Friend:

BOSTON, 11 April, 1775.

Your letters was handed to me this forenoon by the Post; some part of the contents is correspondent with

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<sup>1</sup> Continental posts were not provided for until July 26, when Benjamin Franklin, because of his knowledge and experience gained in the royal post service, was chosen postmaster general for the United Colonies.



my expectations, but yet am sorry in not being disappointed — I mean the affair with Mr. Deane — as it would be much more agreeable to have settled with him in an amicable way than by law. However the latter is preferable to the loss of what is our right, which as the Americans in general so ought individuals to stand up for; and unless he will make such proposals as are equitable I think we ought to take such methods as will oblige him to do justice to us. I am glad you follow it so close, and I hope by your and Jose assiduity to have things upon an agreeable footing. Now is the time to strike while the iron is hot, for [if] it is again neglected I fear nothing but his death will effect a settlement, which I think is as necessary now as it will be then. I wish you will transcribe from his Book the amount of the Notes and Book debts due to and from your father, and the amount of the Real and Personal Estate as per appraisement. Likewise a copy of the accounts he shewed me just after my marriage. I cannot conceive of his being able with any justness to reduce the division from 2000£ to 600£ each. I would not willingly give him his thirds of the Estate until I saw how he stated the account. If he expects a third of the estate the least he can do is to allow Interest for all the moneys and effects he has received since the death of our father. He frequently said it was in our power to ruin him if we pleased. I wish that was explained, for I dont know how. If he has acted an honest part, nay, whether he has or not, I think we ought to do justice to ourselves. It is a duty incumbent on me I will most certainly see to, for I plainly perceive that a delicacy of behaviour has no effect on him. Therefore I approve of your writing Doctor Johnson. Furthermore I think it



would be very imprudent to suspend the settlement longer than next Court, when I believe it will be the most advisable thing to thro in a partition to the Assembly, praying leave to appoint proper persons to adjust said affairs, the choice of whom I leave to yourself and Jose, and will abide by their decision if agreeable to you two.<sup>1</sup> Your Brother having a great deal of business in the settlement of his own particular affairs, and you have leisure, therefore you ought to be very industrious, as all depends upon application and attention. Dont be backward in pushing matters, as you know the person I am speaking of requires it. I am glad you have near closed the Division of Real Estate, and wish a settlement of the whole might as easily be effected.

As to my own particular affairs concerning goods must only say that I would have you open them and sell them upon as good terms as possible, by wholesale and for cash only, unless to Jo, etc.

In respect to spending the summer with you I dont think it eligible, and believe we shall be as easy here as with you.<sup>2</sup> However thank you for your good wishes. Adieu. That all our disputes with the mother [country] may be dissipated (as a cloud by the sun) is the sincere wish of your Afft Brother,

JOHN SIMPSON.

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<sup>1</sup> No such petition appears to have been presented to the Assembly. Probably the troublous conditions prevented. Joseph Webb, in the month of May, was seeking to release one of his vessels, laden with pork for the West Indies (*Colonial Records of Connecticut*, XIV, 439), and the events occurring in Massachusetts were attracting the attention of the colonies.

<sup>2</sup> About a month later he was writing of his intention of going to Quebec, of his low stock of money and provisions, and his wish for his share of the stock — naming one thousand pounds as his idea of it.

FROM JOHN SIMPSON.

BOSTON, 8 June, 1775.

Dear Brother:

I this day received a letter from you dated Charlestown, 6 April, which I suppose you meant the 6 of this month.<sup>1</sup> Presuming upon which I've thot proper now to write you, to signify my desire of seeing you, which I will do at the Lines on the Neck, at any hour and day you will please to appoint, when I can more freely converse with you than by letter.

I received only one from Jose dated 26 May urging me to leave town. Your Sister [Sarah] has been very unwell, but is now getting better, and I believe will accompany [me] to the Lines, if you will meet me there. I beg you will write an answer as soon as possible that I may know what steps to take. I am your affectionate

JOHN SIMPSON.

Addressed: To Mr. Samuel B. Webb at Bradish's Tavern,<sup>2</sup> in Cambridge.

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FROM JOHN SIMPSON.

Dear Sam:

BOSTON, 13 September, 1775.

Captain Fenwick<sup>3</sup> of the Train handed me your letter of the 28th ultimo, with a handkerchief of Peaches, which

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<sup>1</sup> On May 1 Webb was commissioned a lieutenant in Captain John Chester's company (the 9th), in Colonel Spencer's, or the 2d Regiment.

<sup>2</sup> The sign of the Blue Anchor, kept by Ebenezer Bradish. It stood on Brighton Street, about midway between Harvard Square and Mount Auburn Street. A part of the tavern remained until after 1880.

<sup>3</sup> Captain Robert Fenwick, of the Royal Artillery.

have your sister's and my thanks. We are much obliged for your earnest solicitations for our welfare which convinces us of your affection. It would make us happy to meet you but that is impossible unless we take up our residence at Wethersfield, which I have thoughts of, as I have entirely set aside my intention of settling in Canada, the accounts from thence being unfavorable to business, the only inducement I had for thinking of going there; but before I determine on anything I must beg you to answer me a few questions. Are you sure I should be free from all kinds of insults? This question is not that I fear it but through my connections, being sensible I have not been active on either side. You mention that *all* my customers *say* they will settle with me as fast as possible if I will go into the country. Do you speak this as what comes from them, or as your own sentiments only? Do the Common people pay their debts in the money emitted by the Continental Congress? What interest does it bear and when redeemable? Does the above mentioned money pass current for everything? Can you procure for me on hire a coach for my family, and wagons for my furniture to Wethersfield? As my tables and chairs are too good to cart 120 miles, how shall I manage for those things there? Can I hire a house furnished, or can I board my family conveniently? What house can I have or where can I board? I should not choose to incommode your brother, whose goodness will prompt him to urge our living with him.

If you think there is any prospect of an accommodation shortly I had rather stay than remove anywhere, as I have considerable interest here which must be reduced by my leaving it, and what was a great reason for my in-

tending to go to Quebec. I could remove some part of it there with ease by water carriage.

Mr. Deane desired me in his note to confer with you before he left this part of the country upon his conversation with you. Pray inform me of the particulars.

Do you know whether Jos: [Webb] has sent me the money as directed? I have some orphan cousins here, and I want to pay them. I wish you would write him upon the subject.

When did you hear from our friends, and are they well? Is there any letters for me in the office at Cambridge? If there is, I beg you will forward on to me, as they may be of some consequence.

A particular answer to the above queries will oblige me and facilitate my journey into the country.

Sally is well, and desires to be affectionately remembered to you and all friends at Wethersfield. Write me as soon as possible in answer to this, as the cold is advancing, before which I must determine on something.

Through my Uncle at Halifax I have fared pretty well in respect to provisions. I had fresh beef five days last week at my own house, and have now by me a pig and five sheep, so that till I take my departure I shall do very well.

Adieu.

[*Unsigned.*]

P. S. Although I ask if you can procure me a coach and wagon, I don't mean to remove from hence till I hear from Great Britain, in consequence of the battle on Breed's Hill; for as I have a great deal of interest here, I should prefer staying, if there was any prospect of an accommoda-



tion, and which I doubt not my friends everywhere must approve of. As opportunities are more frequent with you than me to send letters to Connecticut, I must beg you to forward the inclosed to Joe.

Pray dont omit sending in my letters. I know of there being some in the office for me and wish to see the contents.

Addressed: To Mr. Samuel B. Webb, at Cambridge. To D. Roberts care, who is desired to forward or deliver it as soon as possible.

Endorsed: This letter must be sent back soon for several Reasons.  
S. B. W.

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FROM JOHN SIMPSON.

BOSTON, 21 October, 1775.

Dear Sam:

I this day received yours of 17 instant, and observe that you had answered my two former letters some time ago and sent it in Friday; but as I have never received it, I cannot know what you have said to make you so sanguine in your expectations of seeing me and family out so soon as a few days. I would be glad you will inform me of the particulars of it, as it is uncertain and almost impossible I should now receive the letter you refer to, and at the same time send me the Letter you mention having received from Jo.

We enjoy health, though not an undisturbed mind when we think what must be the consequence of the present unhappy contest.

If it is possible for you to send anything fresh to us, it would be very acceptable. Perhaps if you ask leave of



your General<sup>1</sup> he would consent to your sending by the boat that goes between this town and Chelsea some few things, as it would be for the use of us only, who must live upon salt meat the whole winter, it being impossible for some reasons for us to leave town. Everything fresh is very dear, besides which, as I have not received anything from my customers since the unhappy 19 of April, my purse is almost drained.

I wish you would spare a few moments to write Mr. D[eane] about our matters, as I have now no dependance but upon him for my future support.

[*Unsigned.*]

Addressed: To Lieut. Saml. B. Webb, Aid de Camp to Gen'l Putnam, at Cambridge.

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#### FROM JOHN NUTTER AND OTHERS.

We the subscribers, James McDonald, John Nutter and Joseph Waterman, of Majr. [John] Durkee's Company, and Joel White, of Capt. [Ephraim] Manning's Company, all in Genl. Putnam's Regiment, do severally acknowledge to have received 20/ lawful money each of Majr. General Israel Putnam, Esqr., in full for all our Right Title and Demand in and to a certain large Bay coloured Horse taken by us from the Regular Troops on Charlestown Neck, and which horse we have sold to General Putnam this 22d Day of November A. D. 1775 as Witness our Hands,

Witnesses

[*none*]

JOHN NUTTER.

JOEL WHITE.

JAMES McDONALD.

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<sup>1</sup> Israel Putnam.

S A M U E L S T R I N G E R <sup>1</sup> T O W A L T E R V. W E M P L E.

Dear Vroman,

ALBANY, 21 March, 1776.

I have wrote you several letters since I had any from you, which I cannot account for.

General Washington has played the devil at Boston. General How has asked leave to go away with his troops, which has been laughed at. We hope shortly to send you better accounts of them. Our army has been besieging the town ever since the 2nd instant.

I know not yet where I am to be destined, nor what provision is to be made for the hospital, and when we are to take the field it will be all to be done. We are all well, and desire to be remembered to you.

I am your sincere friend etc.,

SAM. STRINGER.

P. S. Let McCrea know I have his coat from the tailor he wrote for.

Addressed: To Walter V: Wemple, Surgeon in the General Hospital, Canada.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

WETHERSFIELD, October 14th, 1776.

Yours of this morning I received, and in answer say you had best send your cloth to me. I'll do all in my

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Stringer (1734-1817) had served in the medical department in Shirley's expedition against the French, and also in the campaign of 1758. He was at this time director of the hospital and chief physician and surgeon for the army in the Northern Department. Later he was dismissed from the service, though defended by General Schuyler. Probably the dislike of Schuyler held by many was responsible for this action.

power to suit you as to the making, etc. I have engaged some cloth for Col. Carey.<sup>1</sup> Poor Stanley, our tailor, has been ill, or would had it made before now; but in a few days it is likely I can send it. The post has been in an unsettled state, which has made conveyance to and from the Army quite irregular. I [was] much put out that I had no letter in answer to the one wrote you in behalf of Mr. Jauncy.<sup>2</sup> Pray write me a long circumstantial letter. I cant say but I feel much for Mr. Alexander Wallace<sup>3</sup> and Mr. Sherbrook,<sup>4</sup> two gentlemen of our particular acquaintance, neither of them gentlemen that would do us the least harm, or the Cause of America, was they at home taking care of their property. Mr. Sherbrook has been with me these some days. I feel much for him; his anxiety about his Lady and a number of papers he has secreted, is a very serious affair with him. Mr. Wallace has a large family. Add to this when they was sent away, they was promised a speedy releasement, even from General *Washington* — they willing to do anything consistent with strict honor. I believe they are very willing to promise most solemnly not to take up arms on either side. I wish you would do these gentlemen all the service

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Cary, of Washington's military family.

<sup>2</sup> Probably James Jauncey of New York, who with his wife and son were sent as prisoners to Middletown, Connecticut. At first inclined to take the Whig side, he remained loyal to the King, and suffered in person and in property. He went to England.

<sup>3</sup> A merchant of New York, and with Jay, a member of the Committee of Correspondence. Arrested, he was allowed to go to Middletown on parole, and later, to England. He died at Waterford, Ireland, in 1810. In 1768 he was associated with his brother, Hugh, and had his counting house in Burnet's Street.

<sup>4</sup> Miles Sherbrooke, who had long and close relation with the Webbs. The firm, Perry, Hayes & Sherbrooke, was on Bayard Street.

in your power. I am told one Mr. Hamlington<sup>1</sup> and Mr. Youngs<sup>2</sup> that was taken up with these gentlemen, are released. If this is the case they have reason to expect a releasement soon. Indeed I can't think it will be of the least benefit in the world to keep 'em here. Let me hear from you by Saturday night, and should be glad of an answer as to the letter wrote for Mr. Jauncy.

I have the disagreeable news to tell you that Barny's<sup>3</sup> brig is taken. The people took to their boats and are arrived home. At the same time I have the pleasure to tell you that my Brig<sup>4</sup> is arrived at Philadelphia with the cargoes for both vessels, as far as the Continent as concerned. Tomorrow I shall write you by Mr. Simeon Deane.<sup>5</sup> Forget not these two gentlemen who are so anxious to return, and not to harm the country.

I am, dear Sammy, Your most affectionate brother,

JOSEPH WEBB.

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<sup>1</sup> Captain Archibald Hamilton, to whom permission was first given to reside at New Brunswick, and afterwards to return to his home. *Journals of the Continental Congress* (Ford), V, 671, 809. His examination is in the *New York Calendar of Historical Manuscripts relating to the War of the Revolution*, I, 360.

<sup>2</sup> Isaac, Israel or Joseph Youngs.

<sup>3</sup> The brig was in all likelihood the property of or was commanded by Barnabas Deane.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Webb's schooner, the *Fox*, commanded by James Mitchell, had sailed for the West Indies in April, but on his own venture. As trading vessels were tempted to engage in the importation of war supplies, the *Fox* may have been upon such a voyage.

<sup>5</sup> Brother of Silas Deane.



FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

NORTH CASTLE, NOV. 11th, 1776.

Dear Sir:

I received yours of yesterday. You may depend on my attending to your affairs, and I will write you as soon as I am well informed of their situation. I believe they are all safe.

I shall be much obliged to you to attend to the inclosed advertisement, as you will see by it I have lost my horse, and it will be a great disappointment, and a loss that I am not willing to put up with, as I have lately met with several others. Perhaps the horse may be bro't to Head Quarters for sale, as he is so good a one.

I am very unwell with a pain in my head and breast, a spitting of blood, &c. I expect to go home in two days, and if you have any commands prepare them. I must return as soon as I have put my affairs in order there, but not to stay. I am determined not to be in a situation so very disagreeable as I have been lately. I wish you would return my letter from Tracy, and let me know what His Excellency's opinion of *Genl. Bell's* conduct is. I wish to have it remembered that I sent that letter to Head Quarters, and for the reason that much loss has happened and great waste has been made of the stores since I have been moving them; and in some future time when these losses appear it may be forgot that those people whose duty it was to have guarded the magazines neglected them, to say no worse of it, and the blame may ly at my door, and it is not impossible but I may loose my character if not my estate. If His Excellency was to write something on this matter, setting forth the circum-



stances attending the moving the stores and the difficulties and losses necessarily attending such a sudden movement, I think it would secure me from future blame or loss. I do not want to make any other use of it but to secure me if I am called, and never will show it unless I am obliged to for my own safety; and this I will not expect if the General has the least doubt about the propriety of it, and you will mention it in your own time and way, but the sooner the better for me. At any rate write me, tell me the news, &c. Give my compliments to Col. Cary, and tell him the Girl has got a pain in her head, and I am afraid she is pineing after him. He is a sad Dog, a very sad Dog, to offer to touch any of the Commissary stores. Girls come within the article of stores, especially when they are in his hired house. I have courted her for him ever since he went away. I dont know but she will send him word to come back, but she has not promised me to do so yet. When she does I will send him word.

If you dont go from Peek's Kill soon I shall see you, as I must see Gen. Mifflin before I go to Connect. I am,  
Dear Sir, Your most obdt Servt.,

JERE WADSWORTH.

Addressed: Col. Sam. B. Webb, Aid de Camp to His Excellency, Gen. Washington, Peek's Kill.

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FROM THOMAS MIFFLIN.

Colonel Webb has his Excellency's General Washington's Orders to appropriate so much of the Scarlet Cloathing (taken from the Enemy at sea) as will be sufficient to

cloath One Regiment. The said Cloathing to be set apart for his Regiment.

THOMAS MIFFLIN,  
Q. M. G.

[MORRISTOWN,] January 18, 1777.

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FROM THOMAS MUMFORD.<sup>1</sup>

GROTON, 4th March, 1777.

Dear Sir:

Captain Mumford informs me he was told by Captain Saltonstall,<sup>2</sup> you want some active young gentlemen for subaltern officers in your Regiment. I have a desire to give every aid and assistance in my power in the present contest. My son<sup>3</sup> the (bearer of this) waits on you to offer himself for what you think him capable to undertake. He is young, and not the best constitution; however he inherits his Father and Mother's sentiments to give every aid and assistance in his power. Money is not our ruling passion at this day. My son, if you find him worthy, shall have leave to draw on me while in the service for such sums as he may need. I could wish he was a few years older, but with your good advice and direction I hope he may be of some service in the General Cause. I hope and depend, if you employ him, you will take a fatherly care of him. I will thank you to tell him what method he shall pursue before he marches, to inform him-

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<sup>1</sup> A merchant at Groton, Connecticut, and one of eleven men who in April, 1775, conceived the plan of an attack on Ticonderoga.

<sup>2</sup> Dudley or Nathaniel Saltonstall.

<sup>3</sup> Giles Mumford. On January 1, 1777, he was commissioned a lieutenant in Webb's regiment, and was captured by the British with his commander. He resigned from the service May 27, 1779.

self of his duty when in service. My best wishes attend you and the American cause, and believe me, Very sincerely, Dear Sir, Your real and affectionate,

THOMAS MUNFORD.

Addressed: To Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Esq., in Weathersfield.  
Per Mr. Giles Mumford.

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JAMES BOWDOIN TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.<sup>1</sup>

Boston, April 21, 1777.

(Duplicate)

Sir:

Your Excellency, I believe, is not unacquainted with the great loss sustained by Mr. Temple in the damage done to his farm by the American army. I have since seen the farm, and though I had had an exaggerated account, as I then thought it must be, of that damage, yet when I beheld it, it greatly exceeded my apprehension of it. I have seen his account against the United States for the damage, and he assures me he has made it out conscientiously; deviating from truth in no other respect than setting the articles at a less rate than they were *bona fide* worth; and that the sum of his account will be inadequate to the re-establishing his farm in the same good state in which it was in March, 1775. Mr. Temple intends his account should be laid before your Excellency, and would be much [ ] to you for recommending it to the speedy consideration of General Mifflin, the Quarter

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<sup>1</sup> A holograph. Sir John Temple, whose somewhat troubled experiences may be read in the *Bowdoin-Temple Papers*, printed by the Mass. Historical Society (*Collections*, Ser. 6, IX and Ser. 7, VI). Governor Bowdoin was his father-in-law.

Master General. Justice and a due regard for an honest man induce me to join with him in asking this favor.

Wishing your Excellency the success your character and the common cause merit, I have the honor to be with the greatest esteem, Sir, Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant,

JAMES BOWDOIN.

### ENLISTMENT RECEIPT.

Received 16th June, 1777 of Edward Bulkley, Thirty-six pounds sterling money, for which sum I have enlisted myself a soldier to serve during the war in Col. Webb's battalion.

PRINTIS STORES.<sup>1</sup>

£36. 0 Copy

FROM ZABDIEL ROGERS.

NORWICH, 28th June, 1777.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Andrew Huntington<sup>2</sup> neglected calling on me for the articles you desired to be forwarded. But accidentally I saw the team with the tents passing by, so have sent them by Mr. Peck, the bearer, who was with the team:

The Articles are 3½ yds White Drilling, 2 Table Cloths, 1 pr. White Silk Hose, 2 pr. Fine Thread do., 2 fine Linnen

<sup>1</sup> This name is not found on any muster roll printed in the *Record of Connecticut Men, 1775-1783*; but he drew a pension for service in the war, and then resided in New York.

<sup>2</sup> He was in the town of Preston, and on the Lexington alarm turned out for service during three days. A brother of Jedidiah Huntington, he served as a commissary of brigade.

Handkerchiefs, 1 lb. Hyson Tea.  $2\frac{3}{4}$  yds. White Broad Cloth, delivered General Jedidiah Huntington, who engaged to deliver it you.

For the above you will account with Thomas Mumford, Esq. Hope they will come safe to hand. Am in great haste Dear Sir, Your very humble servant,

ZABDIEL ROGERS.<sup>1</sup>

Addressed: Colo Samuel Webb Wethersfield. Per Mr. Peck.

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FROM JOHN PALSGRAVE WYLLYS.<sup>2</sup>

In the winter campaign of 1776 served in the post of Adjutant to Col. Woolcott's Regiment. In the following month of June, was appointed Major of Brigade to the Brigade of new Levies, commanded by General Wadsworth, which rank I enjoyed until the honor of a Captaincy conferred on me in Col. S. B. Webb's Regiment.

I am, Gentlemen, with the greatest respect your humble servant,

J. P. WYLLYS.

To the Field Officers of Col. Saml. B. Webb's Regiment. Camp at Peekskill, July 15, 1777.

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<sup>1</sup> Of the Connecticut Militia. He was a colonel in 1781.

<sup>2</sup> This must refer to some dispute in rank. Wyllys was commissioned a captain in Webb's regiment, January 1, 1777, and no mention is found of previous service.



TO MRS. SIMPSON.

CAMP PEEKS KILL HEIGHTS, 26th July, 1777.

My Dear Sister:

Lieutenant Colonel Livingston<sup>1</sup> of my Regiment is this moment going with a flag to New York, and if permission is given him to go into the city, he will wait on you. I have only time to say your friends in Connecticut are all well. I left them about three weeks past, and by this conveyance they will be happy to hear from you. Remember me with sentiments of esteem and affection to Mr. Simpson, Miss Simpson, and compliments where due.

In haste I am as ever your Very Affectionate Brother,  
[SAMUEL B. WEBB.]

P. S. Mrs. Deane died in June.<sup>2</sup>

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FROM HENDRICK BOERUM.

CAMP, FISH KILL, November 1, 1777.

Received of Col. Samuel B. Webb, two hundred and five dollars in full, for a certain black horse which I warrant him sound, wind, limb, &c.

HENDRICK BOERUM.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> William S. Livingston. A number of his letters are in Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*.

<sup>2</sup> Wife of Silas Deane, but not Webb's mother.

<sup>3</sup> He was of the 2d Regiment, Dutchess County Militia, Colonel Abraham Brinkerhoff, commanding.

FROM JONATHAN HASTINGS, JR.

BOSTON, 6th November, 1777.

Dear Colonel:

Yours of the 30th ultimo has come safe to hand, with one inclosed for Miss T., which was forwarded immediately. This is only the second received to my very great astonishment; but my surprise would not have been so great, had not a lady promised herself Happiness from your *Lucubrations* weekly. It stands you now in hand to be punctual and persevering, as many *Red Coats* will be thereabouts, but *sat verbum sapienti*.

I remain yours sincerely,

JON<sup>A</sup>. HASTINGS, JUNR.<sup>1</sup>

Addressed: Samuel B. Webb, Esq., at Fishkill.

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

HARTFORD, November 9th, 1777.

Dear Sir:

Last Tuesday I received part of a letter from you to which this is an answer. I thank you for it, however. If you will now begin and correspond like a man, I will give letter for letter, but while you only write what you cannot avoid, I will count, and you shall have word for word. I have a deal of news, but wont tell you any. Now if I had ever so great an inclination this letter must be short, for without news I am nothing in the letter way. I have a very fruitless noddle. The little girl I ran away with is

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<sup>1</sup> Five of this name are found in the *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution*.

well, and sends her compliments to you and Major Huntington. She desires me to tell you the Miss Johnsons are in health. She heard from Sally this evening. I am etc.

JERE WADSWORTH.

Who do you think wrote the above letter, Sam?<sup>1</sup> If you cannot find out get the Major<sup>2</sup> to guess, and if he cannot tell ask General Huntington.<sup>3</sup>

J. WADSWORTH.

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb, Horseneck.

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JOHN ELY<sup>4</sup> TO MUMFORD AND SHAW.

On Board the *Falcon* off  
NEW PORT, December 14, 1777.

Gentlemen:

By this you are Informd that I Embarkd on Board the Sloop *Schuyler* at Norwalk the Evening after the 9th Instant, stood over for Long Island, the Night being Dark prevented our makeing Harbour. Early in the Morning Discover a Ship Bearing Down uppon us uppon which we Held our Wind Endeavouring to make our Escape but Finding it Impossible the sea runing High, we had no Other Alternative but to run the sloop on shore which we did near Old mans Harbour, in hopes to make our Escape in our Boat. Unhappy[ly] However the Boat Imediately

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<sup>1</sup> The first part of the letter is by a feminine hand, probably that of Mrs. Wadsworth.

<sup>2</sup> Wyllys.

<sup>3</sup> Jedidiah Huntington.

<sup>4</sup> Ely was in command of a State Regiment in June, 1777, and thus made his report to the agents of the State of Connecticut. Webb's report was made to General Heath. See Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, I, 399.

Filled along side by which means Col. Webb and several others were nearly Drowned. Those Circumstances obliged us to strike and submitt ourselves Prisoners of war. The ship at this Time had come too within gun shott of us, sent theire Boats on Board and Carryed us on Board the *Falcon*, commanded by Capt. Harmwood, where we now Continue. Expect to be sent to New York the first Fair wind. We have the Greatest Clemency Liberality and Justice Done us by Every Officer on Board. You are Desired to make manifest to my Family and Friends my Situation and shall be Glad of your Influence to Facilitate the matter of my Exchange as it appears Probable to me Col. DeLancy Being a Militia Officer will Finally be Considered as a Propper Subject for the above Purpose. Ensigns Abbot, Niles, Adjutant West, and about 30 Privates are Prisoners belonging to my Battalions. Capt. Buckley, Lieut. Riley, Ensign Mumford, Adjutant Hopkins, 4 Sergeants and 16 Privates Belonging to Col. Webb's Battallion. I am, Gent., your Humble Servt.

JOHN ELY.

Addressed: To Thomas Mumford and Nathaniel Shaw, Esq. To the care of Col. Peck.<sup>1</sup>

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JABEZ HUNTINGTON TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.<sup>2</sup>

Hon'd Sir:

NORWICH, Decr. 14, 1777.

I am this moment Informed that Brig. Genl. Parsons was Last night on Long Island at Oster Pond Point, with

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<sup>1</sup> From the *Trumbull Papers*, in the Mass. Hist. Soc.

<sup>2</sup> "A letter of the 14th from Norwich informs that B. General Parsons was last night at Oyster Pond point on Long Island, with about three hundred officers and men in want of aid from N. London to bring them off. One of our transports, Colo. Webb. Colo. Ely, and

about three hund'd officers and men, and was in want of some aid from New London to Bring off his Men. Have Dispatched Majr. Joshua Huntington with Orders to the Commanding Officers of the Forts at N. London and Groton to afford all proper Assistance, which the Messenger told me they were ready to do on Rect. of Orders from your Excellency or from me.

Have also wrote to M[umford] and Shaw to advise on the Affair. Trust Everything that can be done from that Quarter will be properly executed and with Despatch. Am informed that one of our Transports is taken and Carried into New Port and Colo. Ely and Colo. Webb and Sundry other Officers on Board.

Majr. Ebenezer Huntington Escaped from Long Island Last Night and Brought off with him about Eighty of his Men and arrived at N. London before Day. As soon as I have further advice shall Inform. Interim I remain with Esteem and Regard your Excellency's Humb. Servt.,

Jz. HUNTINGTON.

P. S. If any Intelligence has come to hand since I Left Lebanon, should be Obligated to your Excellency to advise.<sup>1</sup>

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#### JABEZ HUNTINGTON TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Sir:

NORWICH, Dec. 19, 1777.

These come per Colo. Saml. B. Webb, who was taken a Prisoner last week and sent to Newport. He has obtained

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sundry other officers on board is taken by the enemy and carried to Newport." Governor Trumbull to Governor Gates, December 15, 1777. 7 *Mass. Hist. Collections*, II, 203.

<sup>1</sup> From the *Trumbull Papers*, in the Mass. Hist. Soc.



Liberty to come out on Parole to obtain his Exchange for Lieut. Colo. Combel.<sup>1</sup> As he was taken per the *Oliver Crumwel* belonging to this State it seems to fall under your Excellency's Jurisdiction to Determine about the Exchange, and as Colo. Webb has obtained Liberty from the Commanding Officer at Newport, thinks he is intitled to the Changes and would propose wheather Colo. Ely might not be Exchanged for Colo. Delance if application was made to Gen. Putnam. All which is Submitted to your Excellency and remain with Esteem and regard, your Excellency's Humble Servt.,

Jz. HUNTINGTON.

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FROM NATHAN BLODGET.

Boston, 8 January, 1778.

Sir:

Messrs. Livingston and Turnbull informed me that they delivered to you for your Regiment 500 hunting shirts, 500 waist coats, and 500 pair overhalls, for which you had given no receipt; and as it is my business to apply for one, shall thank you for it as soon as convenient.

Compliments to your brother Jack, if at home.

I am, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

NATHAN BLODGET,  
*Issuing Commissary Cloathing.*

Addressed: To Colonel Samuel B. Webb, Weathersfield, Connecticut.

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<sup>1</sup> Archibald Campbell, lieutenant colonel of the 71st Regiment.

## JOSEPH BARTON TO JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Sir:

I understand the letter I wrote some time past to the Governor of this State, which letter was delivered by your self, has been the occasion of some affront to his Excellency which I am sorry for. I understand it is determined to send the letter or the copy to New York, for some reasons to me unknown. I could wish there might be no difficulty about it, if its in your power, Sir, to hinder any that may arise as to the letter. When I showed it you, wished if you thought there was anything in the letter that the Governor would be affronted, wished you not to deliver it. I remember you told me you were sorry you did deliver the letter, as it seemed not to take the effect you could wish it to do. By your letting the Governor know what was my directions concerning the letter, he will be assured it was the least of my design to give any offence. My troubles, losses and abuses of my family and friends puts me half the time that I scarcely know or think what I write.

I am, sir, Your most obedient and humble servant,  
JOS. BARTON, *Lt. Col.*

January the 9th 1777 [1778.]

Addressed: Mr. Joseph Webb, Wethersfield.

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FROM JOHN HART.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir:

SAYBROOK, February 6th, 1778.

I conclude the time of your staying at Weathersfield is nearly up. Should have been glad to have settled our

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<sup>1</sup> Captain in Webb's regiment, commissioned January 1, 1777, and resigned in 1780. He had earlier seen service in the militia.

accounts first, but dont expect to see you before your return. As there is now an opportunity of trying for soldiers with some prospect of success, if you will leave our accounts with your brother, I can settle them with him, when I go to Weathersfield. I have considerable money due from the officers of the Regiment, and when I have collected that, I believe I shall be able to pay nearly the balance; if not you must take my note till I can. I have had no success in recruiting since I returned; but hope to stand a good chance when the draughts are made. Wishing you an agreeable captivity, and a speedy exchange, I remain Your friend and most obedient servant,

JOHN HARTE.

P. S. Please to make my compliments to Capt. Bulkley<sup>1</sup> and all our brother officers in New York.

J. H.

Addressed: Collo. Samuel B. Webb, Weathersfield. Per Mr. Lynch.

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THOMAS MUMFORD TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.

HARTFORD, 18th February, 1778.

Sir,

You will Receive this by the Hand of Colo. Ely, who I have the pleasure to see Returned to this State, with the assistance of friends (among whom I am informed Colo. Delancey was not the Least) he obtained his parole, as has several other officers, among whom is my Son, the Conditions of which are to return when called for. Mr. Webb and Colo. Ely will give your Excelency every in-

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<sup>1</sup> Edward Bulkley, of Wethersfield.

formation necessary. They inform me Colo. Delancy behaved with the utmost Honor and Politeness, and I find he has Returned agreeable to his Parole to your Excelency, tho urged by Mr. Boudinot, our Commissary of Prisoners, to Remain in New York, that some Southern Colo might come out in his Stead. I hope his Conduct will meet your Excelency's Approbation, and that you will give Leave for him to Return imediately to New York on Parole similar to Colo. Ely's. That I think would not only prevent Colo. Ely's being Remanded, but the other officers that came out of New York with him, and I am quite Convinced unless your Excelency permits Colo. Delancey to Return imediately, all *those*, our Officers, will be Called for soon. Your favour herein I shall esteem an Obligation conferred on your most Obedient and very Hum. Servant,

THOS. MUMFORD.<sup>1</sup>

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FROM TERENCE McDERMOTT.

Dear Sir:

I shall take it as a favor if you will be so good as to call on me tomorrow, as I conceive you misunderstood some part of my conversation with you yesterday.

I am, dear sir, with great esteem Your most obedient humble servant,

T. McDERMOTT, 35th.

February the 27th, 1778.<sup>2</sup>

Addressed: To Col: Webb, Mr. Shearbrooks, New York.

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<sup>1</sup> From the *Trumbull Papers*, in the Mass. Hist. Soc.

<sup>2</sup> Endorsement shows that McDermott was an ensign and that the letter was written from Brooklyn. His capture is mentioned in Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, I, 101 n. He was described by Com-

FROM SARAH SIMPSON.<sup>1</sup>

Friday 1 o'clock.

Dear Brother:

By Capt. Delancy<sup>2</sup> you will receive this. He expects to leave town<sup>3</sup> this afternoon or tomorrow early. He will be able to give you a particular account of your friends in this part of the world. Am happy to hear that you have so agreeable a home as our good friend Mr. Sherbrooke's; with them you cannot be unhappy. We received your letter by Mr. Winslow,<sup>4</sup> who arrived here Sunday and left us the day following for Boston. Was very thankful that you lent him your horses, which forwarded his journey greatly. I advise you to be in your usual spirits, ever cheerful, which is a great promoter of health. I dare say that it will not be long before you get exchange and return to your much loved friends, who daily wish to see you. Jack has been with us ever since you left Wethersfield; expects to leave us next week. He was very sorry not to find you here. I was in hopes that we might have once more met together after an absence of four years. Do my dear Brother improve every opportunity of writing me. I shall, as knowing they must afford you pleasure not-

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missary of Prisoners Loring as "at this moment no more than a volunteer in our service, and I cannot send a commissioned officer for him." He had given his parole and went to New York to secure an exchange, which appears to have been accomplished in January, 1778.

<sup>1</sup> Now a widow, but the date of her husband's death at New York is not known.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Oliver De Lancey, Jr., whose treatment of Brigadier General Woodhull when in his power has been stigmatized as base and cruel.

<sup>3</sup> Wethersfield.

<sup>4</sup> John Winslow, Deputy Commissary of Prisoners.



withstanding I have nothing new or entertaining for you, yet it's from a friend and sister who thinks her greatest earthly treasure is her friends. When deprived of *them*, adieu to all happiness.

Brother Josey returned safe, no accident attending his journey. Was disappointed at not seeing you. Believe he will write you by this opportunity. If agreeable to you, my dear Sammy, would be greatly obliged if you would get our friend Mrs. Sherbrooke to procure ten yards of the best Russel or Caliminco, 2 yards of fine white flannel, 1 pair of thick fine black silk mitts, 1 piece narrow black ribin such as will do for apron strings, 3 yards of common callico that will do for Jack's jams. These things I really want, other ways I would not trouble you. Send them when you think they will come safe, and you will oblige me exceedingly. Remember my compliments to Mr. Sherbrooke and lady, and except of my tenderest love to yourself. I remain your sincere friend and most affectionate Sister,

SARAH SIMPSON.

WETHERSFIELD, February 28th, 1778.

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FROM MEHITABEL WEBB.

Friday Evening, February 28, [1778.]

My Dear Brother:

I have just heard that Col. Delancy sets off for New York in the morning. I could not let so good an opportunity pass without writing a few lines, to assure you that we all are every hour wishing for you again with us. But alas how unavailing are they; but we must make our-

selves easy untill you are exchanged, which I flatter myself will be before a great while. You may perhaps think from what I have said that we have some prospect of a speedy exchange; but that is not the case; but I think it right to hope the best, not to anticipate evils. I was very anxious about you untill Sunday last; then your kind letter arrived and dispelled all my anxiety on your account. How happy you are to be in so amiable a family as our worthy friend Mr. S[herbrooke]; him I know and have the greatest esteem for. His lady is a fine woman, I am not unacquainted with her virtues altho I am to her person. In company with such agreeable people you cannot but be content, I had almost said happy; but I hardly think it possible for a prisoner to be really happy. Do not let your spirits sink for everything depends on keeping them up.

Your friends at the other house are well and desire to be remembered. They have been much with us of late. The Major is with his friends. It is a week since he left us. Mr. L——t and Col. S——n are expected this evening. Indeed we have looked for them for this week past. They have paid Boston a much longer visit than they talked off when they left us. Should you see my friend Miss Howard, give my love to the good girl and tell her that I want much to see her; that I often think of the many happy days we have spent together at our good Mrs. Howdings. Ask her too, if you please, what is become of Miss Mobson, that was one of our happy family. I have never heard one word from her since we parted in Boston. I loved the good little girl and should be happy to know that she got safe to her friends. I am called. Adieu, my dear Brother, may you soon be returned to your anxious

friends, prays your truly sincere and ever affectionate friend and Sister,

H. W.

P. S. My compliments to the good gentleman and lady that you are now with.

Mrs. Simpson's love to Miss Howard.

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, New York.

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FROM ELISHA HOPKINS.

FLAT BUSH, 1 March, 1778.

Dear Sir:

Desirous to hear from my friends and relations, likewise to receive any support they might have sent by your [hands], I have desired the bearer to wait upon you with this, (as I understand by Col. Bull <sup>1</sup> that it was uncertain whether you would be permitted to come to the Island) to receive either money or letters if you cannot come. When Mr. Joseph Webb was in N. York with the flag, I received neither money nor letters, which if should now be the case I am certainly to be pitied. I received from Mr. Mumford a small sum to procure a few things that I was necessitated for, but at present am destitute, and am indebted for making a few shirts. Mr. [John] Riley lives four miles from me, but I saw him last Thursday. He was well, and very desirous of seeing or hearing from his Colonel, which also is the ardent wish of your Adjutant. I am, dear sir, with esteem still your Adjt.,

ELISHA HOPKINS.

Addressed: Colo. Sam. B. Webb, Prisoner, New York.

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<sup>1</sup> Amos Bull. See Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 87, 91.

## FROM MRS. GRANT.

Monday afternoon, 3 o'clock, [NEW YORK, March, 1778.]

By this you will still find I am here. My old friends, and the prospect of the weather [are] such as may detain us a day longer, which revives my drooping spirits, as you may imagine them depressed at the thoughts of leaving all my friends, perhaps forever; tho I will not suffer that thought to steal upon me, lest it should make an addition to my present uneasiness. I am sorry to find it out of your power to come to town, for the wearing thought of restraint is mortifying, in particular to one blest with your spirit. To attempt coming to Flat Bush is out of my power, though I have many friends there my heart wishes to see; but that happy sight I must give up, and thank you for your kind wishes. Kitt is very busy but will try to make time to write. Your mama and all sisters join me in best love to you. May health and happiness attend my friend is the wish of

ANN G[RANT.]

We will send you this days paper.

Addressed: Coll. Sam Webb, at Flat Bush.

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FROM MRS. GRANT.

Monday Morning, 12 o'clock, [NEW YORK, March, 1778.]

To my friend, only absent a few hours and already forgot by one who I least suspect; as I observed in Kitt's letter you have not thought it worth your while to mention my name, but will put the most favorable construction, and I imagine you did not want to know grief. By

the appearance of the weather last evening we found we could not go today, and as Mrs. Daubeney with some other ladies came on board to tea, I returned with them once more to have a happy sight of my friends, expecting you to be one in number; but so it is I was mistaken, which I am sorry for. Kitt is gone to look for the papers for you. I Crazy Brain have opened your letter to see what you said, so am in hopes he will return time enough to answer it. Mama and all the family join me in love. Shall I say or compliment? Just as you please, and believe me your Sincere friend,

A[NN] G[RANT.]

Let me request you will burn these scrawls as soon as you had them, for reasons why you might possibly drop them, and that would not be so agreeable.

Addressed: Coll. Sam Webb, at Flat Bush.

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TO SAMUEL CAMFIELD.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir:

Saturday, March 8, [1778.]

Inclosed is the bill for what things I could get of the memorandum you sent me. I went to several places, but could not procure the smoak beef and tongues. However will be looking out and send them by some other opportunity. Am much obliged to you for the friendly invitation of coming to see you, but it cannot [be] tomorrow. The Sunday after, if the weather is good, I intend coming. Whatever commands you may have

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<sup>1</sup> A merchant in New York, who had close relations with the American officers while prisoners of war.



here please freely to command, Dear Sir, Your most humble servant,

SAML. CAMFIELD.

Addressed: To Collo. Saml. B. Webb, at Flatbush.

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FROM CHRISTOPHER MILLER.<sup>1</sup>

NEW YORK, 17 March, 1778.

Dear Sir:

I received your friendly letter, and shall treasure its contents. I'll exert myself to bring F. with me tomorrow or next day. The bearer brings what papers could be got. I dont find any magazines are come out. Gen. Lee goes to Philadelphia by land in a few days. Mr. Lowring and Major Williams goes with him. The General is fretting at some symptoms of the gout he finds on him. Mrs. Miller and the ladies present their compliments. Believe me to be, dear sir, your friend and very humble servant,

CHRIST. MILLER.

Addressed: Col. Webb, Long Island.

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FROM SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

[NEW YORK,] Saturday, March 21st, [1778.]

Dear Sir:

I wrote you last Thursday by Mr. Horsmanden's<sup>2</sup> servant, who brought me a verbal message from his

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<sup>1</sup> One of the Associators of Dutchess County, N. Y., in 1775. See Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 9, 16.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel Horsmanden, chief justice, who died in the following September. He occupied a high position among lawyers, and was the

master, that he would be glad to see me tomorrow. Upon the strength of that I was obliged to break my promise to you, and defer spending the day with you at your habitation, as I very well knew that I should be the whole day employed with him. His servant is now in town and tells me his master is going to dine out tomorrow, and would be glad of my company another time. And as you do not expect me after what I wrote you on Thursday, I thought I could not with any propriety come, as probably you might be engaged somewhere yourself; so that my not coming up tomorrow I hope you will not impute to ill will or disrespect, but merely to the reasons before given. I remain, Dear Sir, Your very humble servant to command,

SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

P. S. The armed vessel commanded by Daniel Moore and by whom you wrote Mr. Seagrove, was taken going up the Delaware river, and of course the letters destroyed or thrown overboard.

Mrs. and Mr. Sherbrooke desire their best respects to you, and I find they have given your paper to Mr. Horsmanden's servant for him to deliver you an hour ago, so that I'm afraid he is gone over and by whom I intended sending this letter.

Addressed: To Coll. Saml. B. Webb, at Flatbush.

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author of *The New York Conspiracy* (1742). His will is in N. Y. Hist. Soc. Collections, 1900, 57, in which he leaves his chariot and horses to Elizabeth, "wife of my worthy friend Miles Sherbrooke, of New York, merchant," and Sherbrooke was one of the executors.

FROM SARAH SIMPSON.

Sunday Evening, 10 o'clock.

With pleasure do I improve every opportunity of writing my dear Brother, whose welfare is very near my heart. Hope that the time will soon expire, and that we may soon have a happy meeting and converse freely [on] what has passed since our separation. Keep up your usual spirits; remember that we are all well and wish much to see you. I hope that you have received my letters from Col. Delancy and delivered the inclosed ones to my friends. Brother Jack has been home; left me a few days ago. We heard from him this day. He has grown out of my knowledge, I think for the better. You must give all our compliments to Mr. Sherbrooke and Lady. Miss C<sup>1</sup> who is here desires to be remembered to Brother Sammy, and wishes most ardently to see you. Mrs. Smith who is the bearer of this leaves town early in the morning.<sup>2</sup> She, I dare say, can inform you of particulars which is more than I can write at this time. If you have received my letter and noted the contents do as you think proper, and I will be content. That you may have every blessing from indulgent heaven is the fervent desire of your friend and most affectionate Sister,

S. SIMPSON.

WETHERSFIELD, March 22d, 1778.

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb, at Mr. Sherbrook, Esq. New York. Per Mrs. Smith.

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<sup>1</sup> Chester?

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. John Smith. She was going to New York to visit her mother, having obtained permission from Governor Trumbull. Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 17.

FROM SYLVESTER DERING.<sup>1</sup>

MIDDLETOWN, March 22, 1778.

Dear Sir:

Having so good an opportunity by Mrs. Smith of writing to New York, take the liberty just to ask you how you do, and to let you know that your friends are well. Doubtless they will write you by her as they know of her going. *Mrs. Smith will return soon. By her I should be glad to hear from you.* From, Sir, your most obliged humble servant,

S. DERING.

Addressed: Colo. Samll. B. Webb, New York. Per favor Mrs. Smith.

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FROM THOMAS FANNING.<sup>2</sup>

NORWICH, 23 March, 1778.

Dear Sir:

I truly lament with you the cruel fortune of war that has placed you in your present situation. No one perhaps can have a keener sense of the misfortune of being detained from dear Friends and connections, than your *Friend* who has had such large experience in captivity.

I have however the happiness of congratulating you on the prospect of a general exchange, which I hope and trust is now at hand and in which you will doubtless share.

When I came from New York October last, I left a bill of exchange in the hands of Mr. Sherbrook, amounting

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<sup>1</sup> A refugee from Long Island. *Records of the State of Connecticut*, II, 513.

<sup>2</sup> A merchant of Norwich.

35£ sterling, drawn by Lt. Colin McKenzie on the Paymaster of 71st Regiment, in favor Mr. Nathaniel Frink. I have not heard since what is the fate of the bill, and as I am informed by your brother of your being at Mr. Sherbrook's house, should be much obliged to you to make inquiry after it, and inform me or Mr. Frink, who is now at the lines waiting an answer.

Could you send or bring out two yards of  $\frac{1}{4}$  book muslin, and five yards white double edged lace; about inch and half width trimming: lady's hat; also two India Bandana Handkerchiefs, you'll add new obligations to those already conferred on, Dear Sir, Your sincere friend & humble servt.,

FANNING.

P. S. I paid Mr. Sherbrook about thirty dollars on account of Capt. Barzaliel Beebe.<sup>1</sup> Wish to have Capt. Beebe's receipt taken up.

Jack Trumbull's compliments. Beg, if you should see Col. De Lancey, you will ask if your brother Joseph gave him a memorandum of some little articles in my way, and whether he has been able to procure them. You will oblige me. Adieu.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Of Litchfield, who served in the Militia, 1775-1783, attaining to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was captured at Fort Washington. A sketch of him is in Kilbourne, *Biographical History of the County of Litchfield*, 126.

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph is in the writing of John Trumbull.



## JOSEPH WEBB TO GOVERNOR TRUMBULL.

May it please your Excellency.

I can safely recommend the Bearer, Captain Luke Fortune to your Excellency as a very trustworthy Gentleman to command the flag you have been so obliging to give the good Mrs. *Deming*. I have the pleasure to tell you she feels a most grateful Heart for your Politeness. She is really deserving, and her situation has really been very disagreeable, not being able to do as she was bro't up, and separated at a great distance from a fond Husband, much could be said in Justness to her Application and your Excellency's approving of it. But I trust you are well satisfied. But to return to the Bearer, he has sail'd in my Employ and I have known him for a Number of years, is now an Inhabitant of this town. By his prudent and good conduct has within a few years arrived to be a Commander of a Vessel from a private Sailor, and collected very honestly a pretty Interest for himself. Is a quiet good man, well attached to the Cause of America; is married into the Family that is connected with Mrs. Deming, and she has now applied to him to wait on your Excellency for the proper Papers, Credentials, etc., which if agreeable to you he has engaged with her, and is a person that you may put Confidence in. I am your Excellency's most obt. Hble. Servt.,

J. WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, April 7, 1778.

I am extremely happy to hear of your Excellency's being restored to your Health, and must now return you my most sincere thanks for permitting the two sons of

Mrs. Winthrop to go on to York.<sup>1</sup> I have not heard from Colo. Webb since I had the pleasure of seeing you at Hartford.

I have heard several times from Colo. Delancy, and am told he remains quiet and peaceable on his farm, and treated well by both parties, and that he is civil and clever to our people, which is a satisfaction. I beg to know what's become of Capt. Flyn and Judd? You'll please to remember they expected your orders at Rhode Island. I should be happy for an answer to my late several Letters. I suppose your Excellency knows that General Lee is gone thro the Jersies to *Philadelphia*.

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FROM L. CONNELL.

Mr. Connell presents his compliments to Colonel Webb and Captain Hamilton, and is sorry that he is ordered to York upon business, which he is afraid will prevent him of having the pleasure of their company today. If they oblige him with it on Monday, he will take it as a particular favor.

Saturday 6 o'clock. [April 12, 1778.]

Addressed: Colo. Webb, Flatbush.

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FROM NATHAN FRINK.

Dear Sir:

WEST CHESTER, 12th April, 1778.

I sent you per Col. [James] De Lancey several papers and a small book from Gen. Parsons, who lodged the same with Mr. Sherbrook's letter, Sundry papers. Also

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<sup>1</sup> Benjamin and Robert, who were to be taken to London by their uncle Major Sheriff, for their education.

some paper for Mrs. Van Horn,<sup>1</sup> which Col. De Lancey lodged in the hands of Capt. Murray, Aid de Camp to Gen. Robertson. Could wish you to call on that gentleman for the same. By perusing the letters you'll obtain a very plain idea of what I could wish to obtain. Col. Webb's exertions on the subject will be duly acknowledged by, Sir, your friend and Most obedient servant,

NATHAN FRINK.

P. S. Jack Heart-well — Worcester. All except Whiting, in consumption. Dont expect to see him alive on return. Vistelle resigned. In great haste.<sup>2</sup>

Addressed: Colo. Saml. B. Webb. Per Capt. Chapman.

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FROM NATHAN FRINK.

BRITISH LINES, WEST CHESTER, 20th April, 1778.

Dear Col.:

I have sent some papers to New York for Mrs. Van Horn, which are lodged in the hands of Capt. Murray, Aid de Camp to Gen. Robertson, who desired Mrs. Boulton (who delivered them) to inform me they would be delivered Mrs. Van Horn in a few days. As they are matters of the greatest consequence to my father, and am told you are acquainted with Capt. Murray, must beg you to call on him for them, and present them to Mrs. Van Horn as soon as possible, and convey the same

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<sup>1</sup> Ann, widow of David Van Horne, a merchant of New York. She lived in a dwelling and store adjoining on Wall Street, and died in December, 1786, or January, 1787. David Van Horne died November 10, 1775, aged sixty-three. The old Custom House occupied the land on which the Van Horne buildings stood.

<sup>2</sup> This postscript is not clear.

to Col. James De Lancy, who will send them to your friend Knap. Shall go from this to Pennsylvania; on my return will call at Knapps for the papers. Your assistance in this matter will be duly acknowledged and rewarded by, dear Sir, your most Obedient Servant,

NATHAN FRINKE.

Addressed: Colo. Samll. B. Webb, Prisoner, Flat Bush, Long Island.

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FROM SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

Dear Sir,

Wednesday Afternoon, [April 29, 1778.]

Agreeable to your request [I] have sent you your Account, with all the rest of the bills which you have not before had. Your servant delivered me two Guineas @ 37/4

£3. 14. 8

out of which have paid Allicock for 1 doz port wine as per account

£1. 17. 4

Also for 3 reams gilt letter paper @ 2/6

o. 7. 6

The rest of the money I have given him back again

1. 9. 10 3. 14. 8

Have enquired of Mr. Charles Nichols the price of a quarter cask port wine and he tells me I can have one for ten pounds the cask having between 31 and 32 gallons in it. Should you be inclined to take one at that price, by letting me know I will forward it to you. Depend upon it as soon as I hear Captain Chapman has sent down your horses, I will send them over to you as quick as possible. Mrs. Sherbrooke talks of going out of town next Saturday. They both desire to be remembered to you. I am, Dear Sir, your most humble servant to command,

SAML. CAMFIELD.

[Enclosure.]

Coll. Samuel B. Webb.

To Perry, Hayes and Sherbrooke, Dr.

1778

March 1.	To cash paid for two news papers.	£0. 1. 0
	To do. for 2 Hams and a Cheese.	4. 3. 9
	To do. for making a Gold Sleeve Button	0. 9. 0
	To do. for 2 news papers	0. 1. 0
16.	To do. for 1 doz Port Wine	1. 17. 4
20.	To do. Grandine and Vanderbelt shoemakers	5. 12. 0
	To do. for 2 news papers	0. 1. 0
31.	To do. for half Cost of 4 Lottery Tickets <sup>1</sup>	2. 8. 0
	To do. Joseph Allicocks Bill for Wine, etc.	4. 13. 4
	To do. John Collins's account Taylor	1. 16. 4
	To do. for 2 news papers	0. 1. 0
April 9.	To do. for 2 ditto	0. 1. 0
15.	To do. for 2 ditto	0. 1. 0
	To do. William Burtons Bill for Wine and Porter	3. 11. 11
16.	To do. for 1 Loaf single refined sugar 7 lb. @ 2/	0. 14. 0
	To do. for a Pamphlet containing a list of the Staff and other Officers in America <sup>2</sup>	0. 8. 0
	To do. Mrs. Groomes Account for making shirts	7. 16. 6
	To do. Richard Sharvin Sadlers Account	15. 12. 0
		<hr/>
		£49. 8. 12
Cr. By Cash received for 3 Prizes in the Lottery, your half being		3. 8. 0
		<hr/>
		£46. 0. 2

Addressed: To Coll. Saml. B. Webb, at Flatbush.

<sup>1</sup> Rivington's *Royal Gazette*, May 23, 1778, contained the advertisements of two lotteries. One, held by authority of Major General Robertson, was the third for the benefit of the "Refugee and other Poor" in the city. It offered 9000 tickets at three dollars each, of which 2252 would draw prizes, and the drawing was to be made as soon as the tickets had been sold. The advertisement continued:

<sup>2</sup> Just published by Rivington.



## FROM SARAH SIMPSON.

WETHERSFIELD, April 30th, 1778.

Your letter, my dear Brother, came safe, and I have just been reading it. Altho short it's very affectionate and afforded me much satisfaction, as I was then very anxious in regard to your health. Am very glad that you are upon Long Island. The town is too much crowded, and as the warm season approaches it must be disagreeable. I have had reason to dread any more of my friends being there, fatal as it was to them. I shall never love the place more. Should you see Miss Howard tell her I have not forgot her, but should be glad to see her here again. I have not time to write her. Indeed I am not well; therefore, you must pardon all amiss in this. I was loth so good an opportunity should slip without writing. This you will receive from Doct. Tudor.<sup>1</sup> Shall expect an answer when he returns, so don't disappoint me. Sister Webb and Hetty dined out, otherways would have wrote. All your friends wish to see you, and hope that you may return soon. Whenever that happy time arrives, must still if possible request you to bring those things

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"To the Profits arising from the different Lotteries, many, who were perishing for Want, most probably owe their Existence. The rapid sale of Tickets fully evinces the Desire of each adventurer to contribute their Proportion to the common Charity, and to each of these the Blessings of the Fatherless and the Widows are due." The second lottery was by authority of Major General Valentine Jones, to raise £210 New York currency for the benefit of the distressed poor in the loyal borough and town of West-Chester. To raise that sum 1400 tickets were offered at 20/ each, or £1400.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Elihu Tudor, of East Windsor, who had studied with Dr. Benjamin Gale, famous in his day, and later pursued his studies in London.

that I some time ago wrote for, as I much want them, especially the caliminico. My friend Mrs. Atkinson will give you a small box, if she gets them in season, which I must beg your particular care of, as they are of consequence to me, and no other person. We had letters from Jack this week; he was well and happy. Major Huntington is gone, and all the rest have followed his example. Our friend Nancy Johnson<sup>1</sup> we expect in a few days. You are frequently enquired after, but thought of by none more than your sincere friend and affectionate sister,

SARAH SIMPSON.

Should you see Mr. Sherbroke and lady, remember my compliments to them. The three littel ones are well. Sally improves fast.

Addressed: Colonel Sam'l B. Webb, New York. By Mrs. Hay.

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FROM SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

Saturday Noon, [NEW YORK, May 2, 1778.]

Dear Sir:

I have been to all the Booksellers in Town and have only found the Inclosed Play, which I got of Rivington, who strongly recommends to you the Perusal of the Book now sent you, which I paid him a Dollar for, but at same time promises to take it back again if you dont want it. The articles now sent cost as follows, viz:

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<sup>1</sup> Daughter of William Samuel Johnson.

1½ lb. best Hyson Tea @ 37/4	£o. 18. 8
1½ Souchong Tea 16/	o. 8. 0
1 Play, Fair Penitent <sup>1</sup>	o. 2. 0
1 Pamphlet Constitution of England <sup>2</sup>	o. 8. 0
	<u>£1. 16. 8</u>

Mr. and Mrs. Sherbrooke desire their compliments to you, and certainly will be up at Flatbush on Monday next.

I am, Dear Sir, Your obliged humble servant to command,

SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

POMFRET, May 5th, 1778.

My Dear Brother:

I am now here on a journey to Boston. Mr. Frink has just called upon me, and acquaints me that Ensign Green is going in to York upon some business of Mr. Frink as well as his own. Should Ensign Green call upon you (if consistent) I wish you to go with him to Mrs. Van Horn's aid, and assist him what you can. I have received your letters about sending your horses, but it will not at present answer. I must confess I am much chagrined that you have not had the offer of coming out upon parole at least. Many gentlemen of the army and others I thought would interest themselves in your behalf.

I most sincerely wish it might be allowed you to come out and stay with me. Had I time, I would write more

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<sup>1</sup> By Nicholas Rowe.

<sup>2</sup> De Lolme's book, published by Rivington. It was much read, and received praise from Junius, Lords Chatham and Camden, and Justice Story.

largely upon the subject. I have just heard that Generals How and Washington have broke off the general *cartel*.<sup>1</sup> I hope it is not true. My compliments to Messrs. Sherbrook, Chew, Lorrain [Loring], Winslow, &c., &c., &c. And Believe me, Dear Sammy, Your Most Affectionate Brother,

JOSEPH WEBB.

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, a Prisoner, New York. Per Ensign Green and Mr. Frink.

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FROM SARAH SIMPSON.

WETHERSFIELD, 7th May, 1778.

Mr. Frink was so obliging as to call upon us just now, going immediately into N. York. I prevailed upon his waiting half an hour that I might write you a line, and acquaint you of our situation from time to time. At present we enjoy health but not happiness, while this war continues which deprives us of so many of our dear friends. My Brothers are all from home. Josey left us last Monday for Boston; expect him some time next week. Tuesday evening Mrs. Knox and Capt. Lilly<sup>2</sup> arrived here; left us éarly next morning. Then came the two Miss Johnsons, Col. Henly<sup>3</sup> and Mrs. Hay,<sup>4</sup> a lady

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<sup>1</sup> The question of a general cartel is fully presented in Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*.

<sup>2</sup> Captain John Lillie, of Massachusetts, serving in the artillery of the Continental army.

<sup>3</sup> Col. David Henley, colonel of one of the sixteen additional Continental regiments. He retired in 1779.

<sup>4</sup> Probably the wife of Dr. Hayes, mentioned in Camfield's letter, p. 65, *infra*.

that was going direct to N. York, by whom I sent letters, one for *you*, Mrs. Atkinson and Sister Winslow. Hope they may reach you safe. We daily expect to see you; if not exchanged, upon parole. Your friends are impatient to see you, *none* more than myself. The season is [so] far advanced that nature wears a most beautiful aspect; yet to a mind filled with so gloomy ideas as my own nothing pleases. Such a continual loss of friends that was once my treasure makes life all most burdensome. Many painful hours do I pass when I reflect on past happy days, when I had every desire that my heart could wish. What a change in my situation is the present day. Hope and expectation are gone, and a train of disappointments left in their room. I endeavour all in my power to bear up under so many repeated trials. Early did my afflictions begin. May I be resigned to every event that may await me through life. Sister Webb, Hetty and Abby beg to be remembered most affectionately to Brother Sammy. Should you see any of my acquaintance my compliments await them. Adieu, my dear Brother, may you be preserved from the ills of life, and safe return to make us happy, is the most ardent desire of her who is, and ever will be, your sincere friend and most affectionate Sister,

SARAH SIMPSON.

Addressed: Colonel Sam. B. Webb, at Flat Bush, on Long Island.  
By Mr. Frink.

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FROM NATHAN FRINK.

Dear Sir:

STRATFORD, 11th May, 1778.

I send you by Ensign Greene sundry letters I wrote you by Mr. Boulton, desiring your assistance in settling a



matter with Mrs. Van Horn. I have now inclosed the papers prepared anew. By perusing the letters to Mrs. Van Horn will give you a plain idea of what I could wish to obtain. My dear sir, your influence with Mrs. Van Horn will be of great service to one who wishes you every happiness in life, and will not be unthought of and rewarded by, dear Sir, your Most Obedient Servant,

NATHAN FRINK.

N. B. Mrs. Van Horn can get continental or Connecticut loan office certificates at six per cent. Interest, if she pleases, for her money, and lodge them with Mr. John Smith, a particular friend here.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'll B. Webb, a prisoner, New York.

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FROM E. V. EDWARDS.

BRUNSWICK, [May, 1778.]

My Dear Friend:

I have just time to inform you of being returned from Morristown, where your brother Jack is. He is well. Colonel White<sup>1</sup> who commands at Brunswick was so exceedingly polite as to furnish me with a party of his horse to go there, and escort me himself ten or twelve miles on the way. I spent two days up that way very agreeably indeed, found all well and in fine spirits, never gayer; a thousand questions were asked.

Last evening I supped with Colonel White and about thirty more. Mr. *D——l*, a brother, was of the party. Daylight caught us unawares and we broke up.

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<sup>1</sup> Anthony Walton White.

Inform Mr. C—— his chair will come in by the very next flag. His brother, where I now write this, promises to send it. He may depend upon getting it, as the boatman is spoken to, and promises to take it.

In one hour I proceed to Provincetown with White's horse.

Remember me most affectionately you know where; and mind your eye, Sam. Adieu for the present. I am, etc.,

E. V. EDWARDS.

N. B. The day before I arrived at Brunswick my brother dined there with Mr. Clark, and had just left it.

May 12th, 1778.

A word to Jim for me. Tell him I have just dispatched my message, and he will receive what I promised him.

Addressed: Colon'l Saml. B. Webb, Prisoner, Flat Bush.

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PAROLE.

I, Samuel B. Webb, of Weathersfield in Connecticut, having leave to remain at Long Island on Parole, do hereby pledge my truth and word of honor that I will not do or say anything contrary to the interest of his Majesty or his government, and that I will not depart from the house I am placed in by the Commissary for Prisoners, nor go beyond the bounds by him prescribed. Given under my hand at Flatt Bush, Long Island, this fourteenth day of May, 1778.

SAML B. WEBB,  
*Colo. American Army.*

Witness: Thomas Clark, *Serjt. 25th Regt.*

FROM J. GREEN.

Sir:

NEW YORK, 16th May, 1778.

Mr. Campfield has been so obliging to have the inclosures conveyed you. Mr. Parsons left some papers for me at Stratford to be sent you. The drafts of bills of Parliament [I] have not sent, as political observations were introduced by Mr. Parsons at the bottom of it, and really such as that gentleman never could expect a British officer to carry. Two letters with ten dollars accompanies this; beg you'll deliver, and take receipt for the money of Captain Welles, as I have given one to your brother in Weathersfield. Shall be glad to see you in town on some government business. Beg you'll inquire for me at Colonel Anstruther's <sup>1</sup> lodgings No. 8 Broad street.

Very obedient servant,

J. GREEN,  
*Ensign 62 Regiment.*

Addressed: Colo. Saml. B. Webb, Flatbush.

FROM SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

Dear Sir:

Saturday afternoon, [May 16, 1778.]

The officer that came in from Connecticut has just now called here with Ten Dollars, which he forgot to deliver me this morning, and which I now send you up by Mr. Clarkson.<sup>2</sup> I am, Sir, your obliged humble servant to command,

SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

Addressed: To Coll. Sam'l B. Webb. Per favour of Mr. Clarkson.

<sup>1</sup> Lieutenant Colonel John Anstruther, of the 62d Regiment.

<sup>2</sup> This may be Levinus Clarkson, who had married a daughter of Mrs. Van Horne.

## FROM SARAH SIMPSON.

Again an opportunity offers of writing to my dear Brother, which I with pleasure improve, fearful that I shall not be able to write you very soon again, as I am at present very unwell, and have been for several days past. Still hope that it will not be long before we have the long wished for happiness of seeing you here. Your friends, one and all, wish it most ardently, and are anxious for your being exchanged, none more than myself, my dear Sammy. We hear from you frequently, that you enjoy a great share of health but not content; therefore cannot be happy. I wrote you last by Mrs. Hay, which I have no doubt but you received in season, as she engaged to deliver them herself to Mr. Winslow. Miss N. Johnson is here, desires her compliments. Sister Hetty and Abby beg to be remembered most affectionately. Would write provided their letters could go sealed. Josey writes you and will be more particular than it's in my power to be. Nothing has taken place worth my acquainting you of, otherways I should inform you immediately. Write me if agreeable as they add greatly to my happiness. Let me know if you ever see my friend Miss Howard, Mrs. Sherbrooke; tell them I want much to see them. May Heaven bless you with his choicest gifts and restore you safe to the arms of your most affectionate sister,

SARAH SIMPSON.

WETHERSFIELD, May 25th, 1778.

## FROM SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

Dear Sir:

May 27th, 1778.

At Mrs. Pelletreau's, the House that I Diet at, Lives a gentlewoman by the name of Hayes, whose husband was

a Doctor in Boston, from which place she is but lately come, in order to take her passage home to England, where her husband has been sometime. She is well acquainted with some of your family, and has received a great many civilities from them, and would be glad to see you the next time you come to town. I promised her I would make you acquainted with it, which I now do by this opportunity.

I have agreeable to your order interested you a half part in company with myself in four tickets in the present lottery, which is advertised to be drawn the 10th of next month, and I now send you the numbers of the same, being as follows, viz: No. 910, 4876, 5535, 7733. May they prove fortunate and turn out to account, which will compensate for the ill success we have experienced in the former ones.

If you can do what I was speaking to you upon the last time I had the pleasure of seeing you here, you will greatly assist my friend in the country, as well as doing a great favor for, Dear Sir, Your obliged humble servant to command,

SAML. CAMFIELD.

Addressed: To Coll. Saml. B. Webb, at Flatbush, Long Island.

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FROM JOSEPH FRENCH.<sup>1</sup>

Saturday, 10 O'Clock P. M. [June, 1778.]

Sir:

I send you by my sergeant five Letters, which I received from Mrs. Vanhorne, belonging to some of your gentle-

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<sup>1</sup> Ensign in the 35th Regiment.



men. If you will be so good as to return them to the gentlemen that own them, you will much oblige your Most obedient Humble servant,

JOS'H FRENCH,  
35th Regiment.

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FROM THOMAS CHAPMAN.

Dear Sir:

I beg ten thousand pardons for not keeping my appointment of dining with you on Friday last. Particular business I assure you prevented, which I shall inform you tomorrow. I this morning obtained leave to go to New York, and tomorrow intend doing myself the pleasure of taking a family dinner with you. If should see Mr. Shaylor<sup>1</sup> in town, I will bring him with me. And am your most obedient Humble Servant,

THOMAS CHAPMAN.

BROOKLYN, Sunday morning, [June, 1778.]

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FROM JOSEPH CHEW.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Chew's compliments to Colo. Webb, and would have seen him at Long Island if it had been in his power. In case the exchange should take place, he must see the

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<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Shaler.

<sup>2</sup> Jones, in his *History of New York during the Revolutionary War* (I. 216), says that Chew was of Tryon County, and because of the oppression of the "rebels," was among those who abandoned their property and sought refuge in Canada. In 1777 he was Deputy Commissary of Forage in the British army at New York, and was captured on Long Island and taken to Connecticut. A petition from him to Governor Trumbull is in 5 *Mass. Hist. Coll.*, X, 40, 41.

Colonel, and give him a state of his brother's demands left with Mr. Chew for money advanced some prisoners, not a farthing of which Mr. Chew has yet received.

NEW YORK, Tuesday, 2d June, [1778.]

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Flatbush.

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FROM NATHAN FRINK, JR.

HORSE NECK, 8th June, 1778.

Dear Sir:

Yours of 17th May came to hand on the 20th, which were immediately forwarded; since which I have been at Wethersfield and Hartford. On my return from the latter your brother was gone to Middletown. Sebra<sup>1</sup> told me to get you a horse, which would soon be sent in for your use. In your letter you mention the receipt of my letters, but not their several inclosures; which I'm much surprised to hear, for I do assure you there was not a syllable could in any way injure the public. It only referred to the settlement of some matters with Mrs. Van Horn, which were of much concern to my father. The particular circumstances shall here relate, and must beg your patience; not only that but your assistance, which I hope soon to have the pleasure to see and reward you for. In 1764 my father received sundry bonds (as per account inclosed) due to Mr. David Van Horne (then living) through the hands of Doctor Johnson of Stratford, Mr. Van Horne's attorney, to collect. On collecting the bond, receiving part monies and part land for the securing the debt to the family, my father made over by deed sundry pieces of

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<sup>1</sup> Jacob Sebor?

land to Mr. David Van Horne on the 19th of March, 1773. The matter rested in this manner until December, 1776; (during which Dr. Johnson put the debt into the hands of Mr. Samuel Huntington of Norwich <sup>1</sup>). About the 20th of December my father received a letter from Dr. Johnson informing Mrs. Van Horne was then at Fairfield, and anxious to get her money. In the course of ten days after he received another from Mr. Huntington on the same subject, adding and directing him to make sale of the lands, remitting Mrs. Van Horne the cash and taking acquittance. In consequence of which, in February and March following, he sold the lands and gave warrantee Deeds of them, came to inquire for Mrs. Van Horne. She was in Brunswick or New York. Thus lies the matter. Two warrantee deeds are now on record for the same lands, and the purchasers are endeavoring to injure my father by troublesome law suits, to prevent which two methods only can be taken. The first is for Mrs. Van Horne to give Quit Claims to my father, ordering her son David to receive the money, after indorsing the inclosed account for payment to him; or empowering John Smith, Esqr., formerly of New York, (who desired I'd make use of his name to her) by filling, signing the inclosed blank to him, and enabling him to negotiate the business as he shall think proper. The second would have been much best for our family, and attended with very little expense to what the first has already been — that is to throw in a petition to the General Assembly, and get them to receive the cash and validate the sale of the lands; which the Governor will do, and I have been

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<sup>1</sup> Afterwards president of the Continental Congress.

sundry times advised to, but Mrs. Van Horne has used my father with the greatest politeness, and nothing but necessity would induce him to proceed in that manner. But am sure Mrs. Van Horne must be sensible it was through her mistake the matter was not settled fifteen months since, as will appear, if she has received either of Dr. Johnson's letters. A repetition of words [is] unnecessary. If she is disposed to settle the debt, have inclosed a memorandum by which she can get drawn the two quit claims. All I can say is, wish most sincerely this method might be adopted to prevent more trouble, as I have made three journeys from Pomfret to this place to accomplish it.

Mrs. Simpson was well on Tuesday last as also the family. Beg you'll make my best respects to all your neighbors, and am, Dear Sir, your sincere friend and most obedient servant,

NATHAN FRINK, JUNIOR.

P. S. I hope soon to see you personally and apologize for so many troublesome letters. General Parsons and your Brother's letters comes inclosed, but not the copies of General Philips letter; through mistake it was left at Wethersfield.

General Parsons had written for Lieutenant Colonel Cleveland<sup>1</sup> to be exchanged for one Lieutenant Richardson.<sup>2</sup> If he comes out it will be a very convenient opportunity for the returns, if any there be. One thing omitted. Mrs. Van Horne must inclose Dr. Johnson's receipt for

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Cleaveland, of the Royal Artillery.

<sup>2</sup> A Captain John Richardson, of Pennsylvania, was taken prisoner at Fort Washington, and was exchanged August, 1778.

the bonds, if she empowers Captain Smith as desired. Beg you'll inform her her lands between Fairfield and Stratford are in bad order. People are cutting woods, and no person to say Why do ye so? Dr. Johnson informed me of that.

N. F.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'll B. Webb, Flatbush.

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TO BARNABAS DEANE.

FLAT BUSH on Long Island,  
June 12th, 1778.

My Dear Sir:

It is neither want of opportunity, leisure or inclination, that I have not before answered your agreeable letter of the 27th of March, but merely because my situation debars me from saying anything to you which can be new or interesting, that I remain in a state of existence you no doubt have frequently heard from my brother. I have long been in hopes of an exchange, or at least obtaining permission to retire on parole to my friends in the country. When either will take place I am totally ignorant; soon I hope, for my present situation is more disagreeable and tedious than any former part of my life. Doctor Tudor,<sup>1</sup> who takes charge of this, will be able to tell you what vessels have been bro't into New York from our part of the country. Remember me to our friends and believe me,

Your unalterable friend, etc.

SAMUEL B. WEBB.

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<sup>1</sup> See p. 57, *supra*.



When you write *our friend* in France,<sup>1</sup> assure him of my warmest affection for him and the little boy. Your old friend Sherry<sup>2</sup> and others of your acquaintance are well, and desire their compts.

Addressed: Barna: Deane, Esq., Merchant, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

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FROM SARAH SIMPSON.

My Dear Brother:

Long before this we expected to have seen you and am anxious at your delay. What can be the reason? Your friends all wish your return and that speedily. However keep your usual spirits, all may yet turn as you desire. Indeed a state of confinement is very disagreeable, and I hope you'll soon be out of it. Your kind letter of the 17th of May I received and return you my sincere thanks. Continue to write me while you stay; they afford me great satisfaction. Am happy mine reached you safe. It will convince you that I am not neglectful of my friends that's absent.

I should make many apologies for the incorrectness of this letter, but my eyes are weak; for it's but little more than three weeks since I was confined. Indeed I have not left my chamber yet. I have a fine daughter, and we are both very well. I dined with Mrs. Chester three days ago; they were all well and expressed a great desire to see you. Our friend Nancy [Johnson] left us on Friday. Sister Abby returned with her, and is to spend some time at Stratford. As soon as you get leave to return to Weth-

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<sup>1</sup> Silas Deane.

<sup>2</sup> Perhaps a familiar mention of Sherbrooke.

ersfield, give my friends timely notice, so that they may write me. I heard from Brother Jack yesterday. He was in health and spirits; was surprised that he could hear nothing of you. Remember me to Mrs. Sherbroke and my other friends, and you will oblige your sincere friend and most affectionate sister,

SARAH SIMPSON.

WETHERSFIELD, June 21, 1778.

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FROM HETTY WEBB.

[WETHERSFIELD,] June 22, 1778.

I have once taken up my pen to write my dear brother. Accept my thanks for your last; it afforded me much pleasure. It informed me of your health, which is all I expect to know until I have the pleasure of seeing you at that happy *time*, when will it arrive? I am too apt to flatter myself that it will *soon* be here. Every day for this past week we have looked for you. Every one that came out would tell us that you were to come out in a day or two after them. I must own it seems a little strange that you cannot neither be exchanged, or on parole get out, but perhaps there is reason for their detaining you that I know nothing about. I will not think too hardly of them.

Your friends are all well and desire to be most affectionately remembered. I had a letter a few days ago from Jack. He was then very well and in good spirits. Little Sally very often wishes that she could see you.

Adieu. May health and happiness attend you prays your most sincere and affectionate Friend and sister,

H. W.

Addressed: Colonel Sam B. Webb, Flat-Bush.

## A BILL.

[June, 1778.]

Coll. Saml. B. Webb

To Perry, Hayes &amp; Sherbrooke, Dr.

1778.	April 30.	To Balance as per Accot. Curr. rendered	£47.	17.	10	
	May 16.	To Taylor & Nicholas Account for 1 Quarter Cask Port Wine £10 Sterling is £17. 15. 7 Cy., with the Cask 12/ if returned to be deducted		18.	7.	7
		To Gaine and Robertson's News Papers twice this month		0.	2.	0
		To Cash paid for Bottle Port Wine sent you as a sample.		0.	3.	2
19.		To Cash paid Francis Groome his Accot for making Shirts and Stocks as per Accot.	11.	13.	0	
		Deduct for so much charged of this Account in the last Accot.				
		Curr. delivered you	7.	16.	6	3. 16. 6
20.		To Gaine and Robertsons News Papers		0.	1.	0
		To half Cost of 4 Lottery Tickets		2.	8.	0
31.		To Gaine and Robertsons News Papers		0.	1.	0
		To Cash paid for 1 Loaf dble refined Sugar, wt. 7 lbs. 4 ozs. @ 2/6	0.	18.	0	
		1½ lb. best Hyson Tea 37/4	0.	18.	8	1. 16. 8
						£74. 13. 9

Addressed: To Coll. Saml. B. Webb, at Flatbush.

FROM JOHN ATKINSON.<sup>1</sup>

NEW YORK, July 4th, 1778.

Dear Sir,

Yours of this date I received, inclosing two bills and a note of hand, together amounting to £285 sterling, which sum when received I will pay to your order. I think it

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<sup>1</sup> A merchant in New York.

would not be amiss to drop Governor Brown<sup>1</sup> a line on the subject you mention, and the sooner it is done the better, as there will be an opportunity for Providence in a few days. I wrote your brother a few lines yesterday and told him that I had had the pleasure of seeing you well the day before. If I can persuade Mrs. A. to get into a carriage we will do ourselves the pleasure of drinking tea with you some afternoon. She desires to join in compliments with Your friend and humble servant,

JNO. ATKINSON.

Addressed: Col. Webb, Flat Bush, Long Island.

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FROM JAMES MORRIS.<sup>2</sup>

Respected Sir:

NEW LOTTS, July 17, 1778.

By the Bearer hereof I return the Pamphlets which you so kindly lent me. I thank you for the use of them. Should have returned them sooner had it not been for the orders restricting each of us to our respective Quarters. Furthermore must beg leave to trouble you with the following Memorial.

In March, in the year 1777, I was appointed by order of General Parsons to take charge of the public Hospital at Litchfield for the Inoculation of the soldiery belonging to the Continental Army. Not receiving any supplies of Money for carrying the business into execution, I was

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<sup>1</sup> Mountford Brown.

<sup>2</sup> James Morris had taken part in the Quebec expedition and was commissioned, January 1, 1777, a lieutenant in the 5th Regiment of the Connecticut Line, Philip Burr Bradley being the colonel. He was from Litchfield. He was not exchanged until January 3, 1781, by which time he held the rank of Captain.

obliged to make the best shift I possibly could, having encouragement of receiving the money as soon as I should close my accounts. After I had accomplished the business I made application for the money sundry times without any success, till finally I was obliged to join the Regiment to which I belonged. After the British landed at the Head of Elk I marched with the detachment under General McDougal's command from Peekskill, in order to join the main Army near Philadelphia. Immediately after it was my fortune to be made a prisoner of war being at Germantown, the 4th of October ult., and ever since that period I have been in captivity. My above mentioned accounts remain (I conclude) yet unsettled, being to the great uneasiness of my Creditors.

In this situation I humbly request your assistance in procuring a Parole for me at large (should not my exchange soon be effected) that I might have an opportunity to retire into the country and discharge the aforesaid accounts. Your kindness once in procuring for me the above favor shall ever be gratefully acknowledged and remembered by your most obedient humble servant,

JAMES MORRIS.

P. S. Sir. Should you be so lucky as to be soon exchanged yourself, and not procure the requested favor for me, please to give my respects to Genl. Parsons mentioning my circumstances. Perhaps it may be in his power by some means to provide a way for my liberation.

With full confidence in your willingness to lend me every aid, I am, Sir, with respect yours,

J. MORRIS.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Flatbush. Mr. Lott.



## JACOB SEBOR TO MILES SHERBROOKE.

Mr. Miles Sherbrooke.

For value received please to pay Samuel B. Webb, Esq., Thirty Six Pounds Sterling, being the amount of two setts Bills drew by Wm. Page and Wm. Cooke, sent you by Mr. Joseph Chew, Sept. 1777, or what part of said bills you have received after deducting your costs and commission, and you'll greatly oblige Your most Humble Servant,

JACOB SEBOR.

MIDDLETOWN, Sept. 9th, 1778.

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FROM BENJAMIN TALLMADGE.

BEDFORD, October 6th, 1778.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed I send you per Flagg, two half Joes and one Guinea, money left in my hands by Captain [Edward] Bulkley of your Regiment which I am desired to transmit to Lieutenant Riley of your Regiment. Thinking it more probable that Lieutenant Riley will get the money by directing it to you than himself, I have ventured to trouble you on the subject, and beg that you would forward the same to him by the first opportunity.

I am, Dear Sir, with sincerity your obedient friend and humble servt.,

BENJ. TALLMADGE.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Prisoner, New York, Long Island.

## FROM LEWIS PINTARD.

Dear Sir:

NEW YORK, 17 October, 1778.

I sent, a few days after my return from the Jersey, Leffert Lefferts<sup>1</sup> an order drawn on me by Captain Lambert Byles, who formerly boarded with him for about £15. Lefferts says there is double that sum due to him from Captain Byles, and I have wrote out about it, and he refuses to pay any more. I desired Mr. Lefferts to send me said order with his receipt thereon and I would pay it, but he has not done it. I will be obliged to you to call on him [*torn*] me, and desire him to send it Monday next, otherwise I cannot pay the order, as I am under a necessity of closing the accounts. Expecting in a few days to go out, as from what I can find leave will not be given to Col. Beatty to come in, I am in haste,

Your very humble servant,

L. PINTARD.

Addressed: Coln. Saml. B. Webb, Flat Bush.

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FROM WILLIAM AXTELL.

Mr. Axtell's best compliments to Colonel Webb; begs to acquaint him General Tryon will be here tomorrow or next day, at which time he will communicate to the General Colonel Webb's wish to see him. Mr. Axtell was disappointed in not seeing the General last week.<sup>2</sup>

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Oct. 26th, 1778.

<sup>1</sup> Lefferts was of Kings County, and one of the addressers of Governor Robertson in 1778.

<sup>2</sup> Axtell, in Kings, and Hamilton, in Queens, are charged with making money by arbitrarily imposing fines for a neglect of militia service.

## FROM OLIVER SMITH.

Sir:                      Wednesday morning, NEW YORK, [November, 1778.]

I had the honor of forwarding you some letters from your friends at Weathersfield on my arrival at this place, and then flattered myself that I should have the pleasure of seeing you; but as that is not in my power from a multiplicity of unexpected business, I have thought it necessary to acquaint you, that I propose setting out tomorrow for Boston; and as I go through Weathersfield shall be glad to have your com[mands] for your friends there. Your brother, Mr. J. Webb, informed me that a bill drawn by Mrs. Melvill in his favor on Mr. Eules for £50 sterling was transmitted you, and as Mr. Eules informs me the bill is paid, I suppose you will write to forward the money to Mrs. Melvill, who is much in want of it. Mrs. Lyman also of New Haven informed me it was probable you had received some money on her account, which she wished me to bring her. This, or other business in which I can serve you, will be executed with pleasure by,

Your most obedient servant,

OLIVER SMITH.

## FROM SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

Catalogue of Books belonging to Captain Thomas Chapman.

- 10 Volumes of Rollins Roman History
- 7 Volumes of Rollins Ancient History
- 4 Volumes of Blackstones Commentaries

He had been a member of the Council of New York, and had estates and property in Great Britain and the West Indies. He had a house in Flatbush, where he entertained the Continental prisoners. His commission was for a corps of Loyalists. After the war his estate on Long Island was confiscated and he went to England.

- 3 Volumes of Cicero's Orations
- 2 Volumes of Elements of Criticism
- 1 Volume of Religion of Nature
- 6 Volumes of Turkish Spy
- 7 Volumes of Sternes Sermons
- 3 Volumes of Sternes Letters
- 2 Volumes of Sternes Journey
- 4 Volumes of Gill Blas
- 3 Volumes of Beauties of the Stage
- 4 Volumes of Thomsons Works
- 2 Volumes of History of England in a Series of Letters from a Nobleman to his son
- 1 Volume of Pomfrets Poems
- 4 Volumes of Addison Works
- 3 Volumes of Otways Works
- 2 Volumes of Congreves Works
- 9 Volumes of Belles Shakespear

Dear Sir:

Thursday, 3rd December, 1778.

When last you was in town you give me to understand that our friend Captain Chapman desired you to call on me at any time for any books that I have in my possession belonging to him. I now agreeable to promise send you a Catalogue of them, and at same time inform you that should you be inclined to peruse any of them, by letting me know I will take care to send them to you. I am, Sir, Your very humble servant to command,

\_\_\_\_\_  
SAMUEL CAMFIELD.

FROM HENRY VAN DYCK.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Van Dyck's best compliments to Col. Webb, and he is very sorry to find himself so indisposed in consequence of his tour the other day to Flatbush, that he is afraid he shall not be able to come up there again to-

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Van Dyck, of Stratford, Connecticut, who had served as reader in the church at that place, but, because of the closing of the

morrow agreeable to his appointment, and therefore begs Col. Webb will be kind enough to call upon Mrs. Vanhorne, and see that she and her daughter executes the two Deeds of Release Mr. Van Dyck left prepared at her house when he was there, Mrs. Vanhorne then not being at home; and if Col. Webb has any particular commands for Connecticut by a line his injunctions shall be duly attended, and every service in Mr. Van Dyck's power for Col. Webb with the highest pleasure rendered; and as Mr. Ludlow comes to town every Monday, it will be a good and safe opportunity for Mrs. Vanhorne's papers (to wit), the Two Deeds and Doctor Johnson's receipt which she still has, as well as for Col. Webb to write by. If Mr. Van Dyck possibly can he will nevertheless call upon Col. Webb before he goes.

NEW YORK, December 5th, 1778.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B. Webb, Esq. Flatbush.

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JOHN JONES TO SARAH BANCKER.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Madam:

PHILADELPHIA, December 11th, 1778.

A severe indisposition from which I am but just recovering, has prevented an earlier acknowledgment of

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church, wished to go to England and obtain orders as an Episcopal clergyman. *Titus Hosmer to Governor Trumbull*, February 24, 1779. His memorial to the Governor is in 7 *Mass. Hist. Coll.*, II, 367. His wish was not gratified, and in August he petitioned for permission to remove to Long Island with his family. *Ib.* 425.

<sup>1</sup> Widow of Richard Bancker, merchant of New York, who died of a putrid fever, April 18, 1775, in his forty-eighth year. He left one child, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Samuel B. Webb in October, 1780. Sarah Bancker was of the Duyckinck family, and had a sister Mary. Richard Bancker had three brothers, Evert, Adrian, and William.



your late favor respecting your Brother, from whom I have also received a letter with a Petition to Congress, the form and style of which are by no means fit to present to that body. I would therefore as a friend recommend him to have one drawn up correctly, and as soon as I receive it you may depend on all the little interest I have to forward his wishes. I had the misfortune to lose sight of Miss Banker by my ignorance of Mr. Low's situation which I assure her I regret very much. I beg my best compliments to her and Miss Duckkink and am Madam,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN JONES.

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FROM HENRY VAN DYCK.

December 12th, 1778.

My Dear Sir:

I am very sorry that you did not receive my letter to you of Saturday last by Mr. Sherbrook's servant, as I find you was so good as to send a horse for me as far as the ferry, on the day I fixed upon, when I had the pleasure of seeing you at Flatbush. I was so indisposed in consequence of my walk that day, that I was unable to perform my engagement, which I do assure you made me very unhappy. I intended however to have made you a visit once more before my departure from hence, but what with the badness of the weather and other avocations, I have been denied even that happiness. My parole is out on Monday next, and therefore I cannot answer your kind expectations in dining with you tomorrow, as I shall be under the necessity of setting off by land or water to morrow afternoon or Monday morning at farthest.

Should you have any questions to ask or messages to send you will be good enough to forward them to me as soon as may be in writing, and I will of course answer the questions and deliver the messages as soon as possible. Believe me you cannot make me happier than putting it in my power to render you any services, and nothing could have given me more satisfaction than a further personal interview with you, but that in my present situation I cannot think of, and you yourself I know will readily forgive me. A message sent at any time before twelve to morrow will be in season. As I hear the Commissioners are gone to Amboy in order to negotiate a general exchange, I cannot but hope you will soon have your fondest wishes gratified, which will afford infinite satisfaction to, My Dear Sir,

Your most affectn and very hble servt.,

HENRY VAN DYCK.

P. S. I received the deeds and receipt from Mr. Vanhorne.

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FROM JOHN WINSLOW.

NEW YORK, 16 December, 1778.

Sir:

Least you should not have received a letter which I wrote you two days ago I will write you again to acquaint you that the Commander in Chief is pleased to comply with your request, and has given you permission to send to your brother in Connecticut for hay and oats for the use of your horses. Whenever you write for them and will

send your letter to me, I will inclose a permit signed by one of the Generals aid de Camp.

Yours very sincerely

JOHN WINSLOW,  
*D. Com. Prisoners.*

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb, Prisoner on Parole, Flatbush, Long Island.

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FROM LEWIS PINTARD.

Dear Sir:

NEW YORK, 22nd December, 1778.

I received another letter yesterday afternoon from the officers of an old standing, complaining of the distribution of the monies in such terms as have made it necessary for me to postpone the payment, until I can get further directions from Col. Beatty. In the meantime I have concluded to pay all round £12 10. each. This I suppose will not please the gentlemen last come, but there is no help for it, and I hope it will only cause a delay of a few days, and that I shall get such instructions from Col. Beatty as will please all parties. I wrote last night to General Irvine on the subject, and answered the officers letters, and this morning have tried to send said letters the Irish way, to carry them myself, but have yet received no permission. If I do not get it, will send the letters by Mr. Stearns this afternoon. I sent Gen. Irvine's copy of the letter I received and my answer, and hope it will be satisfactory to all who I would wish to please, if possible, but that is difficult. I beg you will send me the former letter wrote me which you forgot to deliver me, as perhaps it may be necessary for me to send out a copy thereof. In great haste, I am Yours affectionately,

L[EWIS] P[INTARD.]

Addressed: Col. S. B. Webb, Long Island.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother,

I have received but one short letter from you since our parting at the good Mrs. Delancy's, which was handed by Messrs. Coffin and Smith, who got well home. I should according to your desire at that time have sent some hay etc. by a returning flag to New York, but [was] made to believe that a new cartel had taken place, which would then soon relieve you from your confinement. I now understand the prospect is quite at an end, and how long you are to remain Heaven only knows. Patience is the only comfort I can give you. I need not repeat my surprise at your not being allowed to come out after the many applications, but as much as will do has been urged and said, and you have (though they have not done as they could have wished) to thank and remember Col. Campbell and those other gentlemen that have been polite enough to interest themselves in your behalf. I wish it may be ever in our power to acknowledge their civilities.

I sincerely love gratitude, and am happy when I have it in my power to show it; and I as sensibly feel when it is not returned me; but enough has been said, as I have told you repeatedly in my late letters. Therefore arm and fortify yourself to remain it out, until they make a cartel that will exchange in due rotation.

Write me as often as you can and when you are permitted to. Should the bearer wait on you, I think it would be best to send out some of your horses or sell them there. I am much surprised to hear of the bills being protested. Let me know the reasons. I hope Mr. Sherbrook takes proper care of those in his hands. He is present, and must



do the needful. You are sensible they would or did not permit me to come and have 'em adjusted.

Though Mr. Loring wrote me "as the Commander in Chief was not present I could not be permitted in, yet let him know my demands and he would see them settled." Upon my word it puzzles me. I cant see through the denial, when Governor Franklin and so many said so much of it, the consequence and real necessity of my personal appearance to settle with them, and what was further would answer for me [my] doing nothing that would be dishonorable. Heretofore they have been extremely polite and genteel. I have ever acknowledged it. Did I ever forfeit that indulgence? But not five days after I left the Bridge scarcely any one was refused admittance that asked. But —

I bid you adieu. Remember me to our worthy friend Sherbrook, Shaylor, Gov. Franklin etc. and believe me,

Yours most sincerely,

J. W.

December 31, 1778.

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#### ELISHA HOPKINS TO MRS. BANKER.

Capt. Hopkins presents his most respectful compliments to Mrs. Banker, is sorry it was not in his power to have the pleasure of delivering her letter in person. Its with pleasure that Capt. H. informs Mrs. Banker, that her friends on Long Island are well, and desire to be remembered in a very particular manner.

MORRIS[TOWN], Monday Morning, 8 o'clock. [1779.]



## RECEIPTS.

Received of Mr. Fitts Hue fifteen Guineas for a bay horse, [which] was my property.

WM. BYGRAVE, *Cornet 2 L. D.*<sup>1</sup>

FLAT BUSH ON LONG ISLAND, January, 1779.

Received of Colonel Webb Fifteen Guineas in full for a large bay horse, late the property of Cornet Bygrave of the British Army.

ROBERT RANDOLPH,  
*Lieut. Light Dragoon American Army.*<sup>2</sup>

FROM NATHAN FRINK.

Dear Colonel:

By the bearer, Mr. Hall, I send you the New Haven paper of January 6th. Your favors by Mr. Van Dyck I am much obliged to you for. Your friend *S. H. P.*<sup>3</sup> left this day before yesterday, or you might have had a line. We are well — at *Kpps*<sup>4</sup> Col. Eno's compliments, Bush, &c., &c., &c.,

Ever your obedient servant,

N. FRINK.

HORSE NECK, 8 January, 1778 [1779.]

Addressed: Colo. Samll. Webb, Prisoner, New York. Per Mr. Hall.

<sup>1</sup> He was a cornet in the Sixteenth, or Queen's Regiment of Light Dragoons.

<sup>2</sup> Randolph was of Virginia, and was wounded and taken prisoner at Tappan, September 28, 1778.

<sup>3</sup> Samuel Holden Parsons.

<sup>4</sup> Perhaps a word in cipher.

FROM JAMES KEENS.<sup>1</sup>

NEW YORK, 9th January, 1779.

Copy of Mr. Loring's letter to me dated yesterday.

Mr. Keens be kind enough to provide the best Quarters you can in Flat Bush for Col. [George] Baylor, and let me know it immediately. Gen. [William] Thompson and Colonel [Robert] McGaw will likewise want quarters, and a number of other officers who I expect in daily.

Yours &amp;c.,

J. LORING.

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SIR:

Col. Baylor is not arrived. Mr. Loring and myself will be over when Col. Baylor comes to the island. I have provided quarters by order of Mr. L. at Mrs. Carrows in Smith Street, at Major Conway's sister's. All the British and Brunswick officers are gone out, only Capt. Campbell, Captains England,<sup>2</sup> Strangways, Lieutenants Wallace<sup>3</sup> and Frazier and Ensign Frazier, who I believe will be exchanged when some of your officers comes in. I am certain one Captain will be exchanged, if you please to inform Capt. [James] Heron. There is nothing new in town.

I am, Sir, with much Respect, your very Humble  
Servant,

J. KEENE.

If you or Capt. Swan could fix a house for Col. Baylor.

Addressed: Col. S. B. Webb, Flat Bush, Long Island.

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<sup>1</sup> Keens was connected with the office of Commissary of Prisoners.

<sup>2</sup> Richard England, captain in the 47th Regiment.

<sup>3</sup> Two of the name of Wallace held lieutenant's commissions: Hill Wallace, in the 14th Regiment, and John Wallace, in the 64th. The prevalence of Scotch names in the British force makes it impossible to identify the Frasers.

## FROM HENRY REMSEN TO SARAH BANCKER.

Dear Madam:

MORRISTOWN, 16th January, 1779.

I am at present in want of a good feather bed, bolster and pair of pillows. Perhaps you may be willing to spare them to me for either hard or soft money, or any other articles that I have by me. I could spare a green rug in part pay, also some brown ell-wide Russia sheeting, a little black real India Taffeta of the best cotton ever imported. If these should not suit, I expect a few pieces fashionable silks soon. Please inform me by a line if you can spare the articles I want, and what the price is in hard money, or if you chuse any of the goods mentioned, or some very good Scotch snuff in bladders.

I could have purchased much bedding in this town, but find them very small, and nothing like the New York beds. I left two at New York and another has been fairly wore out while the army lay here.

Henry will deliver you this and forward your answer. Mrs. Remsen joins me in respectful compliments to yourself, Miss Bancker, Miss Polly,<sup>1</sup> and to Miss Neilson<sup>2</sup> and family.

I am respectfully, Dear Madam,

Your most obedient servant,

HENRY REMSEN.

## FROM ELIHU HALL.

Dear Sir:

NEW YORK, January 21st, 1779.

I have found a line from Jacob Sebor, which have inclosed to your observation. I find he wants a set of shoe

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<sup>1</sup> Miss Mary Duyckinck.

<sup>2</sup> Daughter of William Neilson of Pluckemin.

and knee buckles. Pray send word by your man who I suppose will bring your horse tomorrow 10 o'clock. Pray remember my best respects to Mr. Sherbrook and Lady, and to our mutual friend Natty.<sup>1</sup>

Wishing you a speedy exchange.

Good by.

ELIHU HALL.<sup>2</sup>

### CAMFIELD'S ACCOUNT.<sup>3</sup>

Sundry expences paid for Coll. Webb as per Memorandum, vizt.

1778. December 23.	To Cash paid Slidell, Tallow Chandler, for a Box Mould Candles, wt. 38 @ 5/ & Box 6/		£9. 16. 0
	To Cash paid his servant Richard.		2. 6. 0
			<u>12. 2. 0</u>
1779. January 22.	To Cash paid Joseph Allicock for sundrys		4. 12. 0
23.	To Cash paid Mr. Hall to purchase Shoe and Knee Buckles for Mr. Cebra <sup>4</sup>	1. 17. 4	
	To ditto to Mr. Hall for one night Horse-keeping	<u>0. 10. 0</u>	2. 7. 4
	To Cash paid Mr. Sharp for 5 Gallons Madeira Wine delivered Richard the 21st. Instant.		5. 0. 0
			<u>£24. 1. 4</u>

N. B. The inclosed Paper that was to have been given to Mr. Hall he saw, and said that there was no Necessity for it, as he cou'd take the Horse out without it.

<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Ramsay (?), who was a prisoner on Long Island.

<sup>2</sup> A sergeant in Captain Abel Pettibone's company, Wolcott's Brigade of Connecticut Militia.

<sup>3</sup> Endorsed "Sam'l. Camfields Account of Money paid out, New York."

<sup>4</sup> Sebor.

FROM JACOB SEBOR.

Dr. Colonel;

Have only one moment's time by Mr. Townly to beg the favor of you to send me word by the first opportunity, whether the bills I left with Mr. Sherbrooke are accepted or protested. If accepted and paid, I wish you to receive the money, as per the order I sent you by Mr. Clark; also if you have received the money for the note of General F[rankli]n. In haste, wishing your speedy exchange,

I remain your sincere friend,

JACOB SEBOR.

P. S. Our Company affairs go on very well.

Jany. 26, 1779.<sup>1</sup>

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FROM NATHANAEL GREENE.

Tuesday Evening [1779?]

Dear Sir:

I have consulted Mrs. Greene respecting the day of her departure. She fixes upon Sunday; and thinks herself exceeding happy to have the honor to be escorted by so polite and agreeable a gallant. She begs her compliments to Miss Banker, and to hers you will please add mine.

Yours aff.

N. GREENE.

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<sup>1</sup> Webb was released on parole, to accompany Baylor to Philadelphia on the question of an exchange of prisoners. Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 153.



FROM S. NICOLL.<sup>1</sup>

[NEW YORK, February, 1779.]

Col. Webb will oblige S. Nicoll by remembering Compliments to Messrs. [Matthew] Clarkson, Beresford, [James] Segrove, Troop, [Morgan] Lewis, and to others of his old acquaintance, which the Colonel may accidentally meet with.

That you may be able to bring about a general exchange, and that the happiest moments of your past life may be dull in comparison of the most anxious of those you have yet to experience, is the sincere wish of your friend and obedient Servant,

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S. N.

FROM GEORGE BAYLOR.

My Dear Webb:

[NEW YORK, February, 1779.]

It is as we wish. You are to go to Philadelphia. Let me take you by the hand tomorrow.

Yours in great haste,

G. BAYLOR.

The dinner is a cooling.

4 o'clock P. M.

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RECEIPT FOR FLOUR.

NEW YORK, February 3, 1779.

Received of John Beatty, Esq., Commissary General of Prisoners for the United States of America, by the hands of L. Pintard, One Barrel Flour. Weight 1. 3. 2.

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<sup>1</sup> Doctor S. Nicoll, then at New York.

Copy of a receipt given for the above Barrel Flour by  
Col. S. B. Webb.

JOHN PINTARD.

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BILL FOR WINE.

Col. Samuel B. Webb, NEW YORK, 3rd February, 1779.

Bought of Richard Sharp.

1 Quarter Cask Madeira Wine £25. 0. 0

(N. B. Cask to be returned when empty.)

Received, New York, the 5th February, 1779, the within  
contents from Mr. Sherbrooke.

RICHARD SHARPE, JUNIOR.

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FROM THOMAS MUMFORD.

Dear Sir:

HARTFORD, 4th February, 1779.

I have promised myself the pleasure of seeing you return home for some time. The endeavors of your friends have not succeeded (for your exchange) agreeable to my hope and expectation. However, the present prospect now bids fair to have you exchanged for one of the British Colonels captured in a packet from New York to England, and they released in Spain, and receipt given for them there by the British Consul, to be accounted for in America.<sup>1</sup> Your brother I conclude will inform you the particulars, the bearer, Capt. Bulkley, with Col. Ely, having just received intelligence that they are remanded as prisoners to New York, return agreeable to their paroles on first notice. This I trust will entitle them to the confidence

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<sup>1</sup> Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 148 n.

of the British Commander-in-Chief at New York, and I make no doubt they will be treated agreeable to their merit. Ensign Mumford would have accompanied them, but has had the good fortune to be exchanged at Newport. As you will see by Gen. Prescott's letter to Gen. Sullivan, which Capt. Bulkley carries with him, he will now immediately join your regiment to which he belongs. I flatter myself you will soon be exchanged and command them again. This I am sure must give the whole regiment very sensible pleasure. I am happy to give some assistance to our officers now prisoners with you, by distributing a few Guineas which I hope will administer relief and comfort.

I am lately deprived of my greatest temporal enjoyment. My good Mrs. Mumford is no more. She departed this transitory Life about two months since. Your young ensign is sensibly affected by this irreparable loss of an affectionate tender parent. May this alarming warning stimulate us all to be likewise ready.

My cordial wishes salute you, and am with Real Esteem and regard, Dear Sir, Your sincere and affectionate

THOS. MUMFORD.

Addressed: To Colo. Samuel B. Webb, at or near New York. Per Capt. Bulkley.

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FROM JOHN CHESTER.

My Dear Sir:

WETHERSFIELD, February 6th, 1779.

I have again with much difficulty put off the tryal of my Johnson cause, solely for the want of your evidence in the matter.<sup>1</sup> There is soon to be another session of the Court, at which my adversary will no doubt be able to

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<sup>1</sup> Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 136, 156.

bring on the tryal, whether I will or not. Your deposition is therefore of amazing consequence to me. I have obtained a flagg of Governor Trumbull to go into N. York, on purpose to see you on this business; but am since informed that it is altogether improbable that I can be admitted on this score. I must therefore desire you (if you can obtain permission) to meet me just without the Lines, for this very interesting purpose (to me), the obtaining of your deposition in the case. If this favor may be granted I wish to know the time and place where I am to meet you, and as early as is convenient. Your answer will greatly oblige, My Dear Sir, Your affectionate friend and very Humble Servant,

JOHN CHESTER..

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, Flat Bush. Per favor Capt. Bulkley.

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BILL.

NEW YORK, February 10, 1779.

Colonel Webb

Bought of Berry & Rogers

Steel hilted sword . . . . .	£7 9. 4
Sword knot . . . . .	I 4. -
2 pr. silk stockings . . . . .	3 14. 8
Sword belt . . . . .	I 4. -
Sword Hook . . . . .	16. -
Stick . . . . .	I 4. 0
3 Ratan . . . . . 6/	18. 0
Trunk . . . . .	I. 4. 0
Stick pomatum . . . . .	2. -
2 Cane strings . . . . .	12. -
Currency	18 7 0

Rec'd payment in full

BERRY & ROGERS.

FROM NATHAN FRINK.

HORSE NECK, 12th February, 1779.

Dear Colonel:

Your brother Jos. desired me to procure for the purpose of sending by a flag for your use fifteen or twenty bundles of hay and forty bushels of oats. I have agreed for them both, which will be ready this Saturday coming. Have also procured a vessel to transport them and acquainted your brother by a letter. By the next post I expect the Governor's permission. With your brother's instructions they will be forwarded as fast as possible. By perusing your brother's letters by Mr. Townly I observe no mention to have been made of your exchange proposed by your worthy brother-in-law, Mr. Barrell, who wrote His Excellency General Washington requesting your exchange for a gentleman of the British Army, who was taken in one of the outward bound packets from New York and carried into some foreign port by a privateer belonging to Mr. Barrell & Co. The captain of the privateer delivered them (I think six in number, of different ranks) to one of the British Ambassadors at a foreign court, and took his receipt for them as exchangeable in America, which receipt has come to hand, and forwarded to His Excellency General Washington. For that purpose your brother did me the liberty to peruse Mr. Barrell's letter to him. From this circumstance I have taken the freedom (earlier than your brother may have an opportunity) to acquaint you of the prospect of your exchange.

I am, sir, with every respect, your Obedient Servant,  
N. FRINK.



## FROM ROYAL FLINT.

CAMP RARITON, February 18, 1779.

Dear Sir:

I inclose you a copy of the deposition <sup>1</sup> you requested.

Col. Wadsworth set off last Tuesday morning for Connecticut.

I am, Dear Sir, with esteem, Your most obedient servant,  
ROYAL FLINT.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B Webb, at General Arnold's, Philadelphia.

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## FROM WILLIAM S. LIVINGSTON.

HEAD QUARTERS,<sup>2</sup> February 20th, 1779.

Dear Webb:

I followed you from Hackensack to about four miles beyond Elizabeth Town, and unfortunately took the wrong road, or should have overtaken you. I supposed you would have gone on to Brunswick instead of going to Head Quarters. As your stay will be short, I wish to have the pleasure of hearing from you respecting your return. I intend going to Rhode Island very soon, and want much to see you before I set out. Your brother is now in New York expecting to effect your exchange. Accept my best wishes for your success, and believe me,

Your most affectionate Friend,

WILLIAM S. LIVINGSTON.

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, at Philadelphia. Favored by Mr. Temple.

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<sup>1</sup> Webb has endorsed it "my deposition." It probably related to Colonel John Chester's case.

<sup>2</sup> Middlebrook.

JACOBUS VAN ZANDT<sup>1</sup> TO MRS. BANCKER.

MORRISTOWN, March 1st, 1779.

Dear Madam:

Immediately on my return to Morris Town I made it my business to apply to Gov. Livingston,<sup>2</sup> to grant you the indulgence with his pass to go to New York, or even as far as Mrs. Bancker's on Staten Island, on business of utmost consequence to you, and pointed out to him the necessity of such request. His answer was, he was determined not to grant any more passes to any person whatever, and informed me the same time that as Gen. Washington was near you, that you might apply to him for such indulgence; since several persons have applied to the Governor for passes which have since refused.

Pray, Madam, is there not one Maj. Van Zandt and Miss Van Zandt still alive with you or in your neighbourhood? (If so) we shall be glad to hear from them, and that their Mamma expects them home every moment. Mrs. Van Zandt joins me in best compliments to you, Miss Bancker, Miss Duyckinck, and to our friends Mr. and Miss Neilson. I remain, Dear Madam, Your most Humble Servant,

JACOBUS VAN ZANDT.

Addressed: Mrs. [Sarah] Bancker, Rariton To the care of William Neilson at Pluckmin.

<sup>1</sup> Jacobus Van Zandt was of the patriotic party in New York, and was chosen to attend the Provincial Congress in 1775. He was a merchant, engaged in a general importing business, with a place on Rotten Row, near the Coffee House. He died in 1789, leaving one daughter, Catharine, and two sons, Viner and James. No Major of the name is noted in the army list.

<sup>2</sup> William Livingston.

FROM JAMES HERON.

CAMP [RARITON], March 2, 1779.

Dear Webb:

Here am I with a cursed little caitif of a horse. It was with the utmost difficulty I got him to hobble this length. However I've rested him a day, and now am setting off to try him a second time. I shall be happy to receive a line from you at Danbury, where I expect to be in a few days. This will be handed to you by Col. Butler, whom I beg leave to introduce to you as my particular friend. You'll find him to be all the man I've often described to you. I am, Dear Webb,

Your affectionate

HERON.

Addressed: To Col. Samuel B. Webb, at General [Benedict] Arnold's, Philadelphia.

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FROM JOHN SWAN.<sup>1</sup>

You have not complied with your word, my dear Colonel. In return I am resolved to be better than mine. You have not had time it seems to write whether you are well or ill, happy or otherwise. You know by experience my situation affords a few moments to inquire after my friends. As such I embrace this opportunity to ask how you are, how you have been, how you have passed your time, &c. We go on in the old way. The weather being remarkably fine, walking with the fair sex is a principle amusement. Last night I sat an hour with one of them, who lives near

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<sup>1</sup> Captain in the 3d Regiment of Continental Dragoons, and was taken prisoner at Tappan, September 28, 1778. He came from Maryland.

the center of this city. As usual she was chatty and agreeable, counting the days of your absence and the hours before you return. I did not then know of this opportunity, or would have had messages, compliments, &c. The flour you was to send me is not yet come to hand.

Mrs. Bambridge, who I was with last evening, begs you will apply to General Washington for a passport to visit her children and friends in the Jersey. She says you will confer a lasting obligation on her by obtaining the desired permission.

We have heard nothing of the exchange. I am afraid you have not succeeded. If so, you will be the bearer of the first letters after the receipt of this. Adieu. God bless you. Dont let me see your face again in Flat Bush.

JOHN SWAN.

March 3, 1779.

PIETY PARLOUR, [FLAT-BUSH.]

On the outside: Col. Beatty will forward this by some safe hand soon, which will oblige his humble servant,

JOHN SWAN.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, on Parole, at Philadelphia.  
 "Ex[amine]d. J. Keens."

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#### A COMMERCIAL VENTURE.

We the subscribers do mutually empower Col. Samuel B. Webb to make application in our names to such of the persons mentioned in a list annexed or any others which he may think proper, in order to a purchase of such goods as he, or the agent he may appoint, shall think most likely to prove advantageous to the concern.

And we hereby mutually bind ourselves to each other to share the profit or loss which may arise or be incurred by the transaction. Should Col. Webb think it advisable to send a vessel to New London or elsewhere, we authorize to interest us to the amount of three Hundred pounds sterling each, to be on our joint wish as above.

PHILADELPHIA, 3rd March, 1779.

WILLIAM CONSTABLE, for self and JAMES SEAGROVE two shares.

JAMES & ALEXANDER STEWART, for two shares.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON and Co. for one share.

ROBERT TOTTEN.

THOMSON & SELBY, for one share.

SAML. B. WEBB & Co. for two shares.

JOHN RAMSEY.

ROBERT TOTTEN, { SAMUEL FRANKLIN.  
WALTER FRANKLIN.  
JAMES PARSONS.  
THOMAS PEARSALL, Merchant.  
THOMAS PEARSALL, Watchmaker.  
THOMAS MCFARRAN.

J. & A. STEWART, { DANIEL MCCORMICK.  
ROBERT GAULT.  
SMITH RAMADGE.  
EDMUND SEAMAN.

WM. CONSTABLE & J. SEAGROVE, RAMADGE & MCCORMICK.

JOHN THOMPSON & MR. SELBY, { ROBERT MINER [or Muir].  
— LEE, Enquire if he is come from Europe.  
JOSEPH HALLET.  
WILLIAM MAXWELL, Tobacconist.

ALEXANDER ROBINSON & Co., { WILLIAM MAXWELL  
SMITH RAMADGE

JOHN RAMSEY, ROBERT MERCER, WILLIAM LOWTHER.  
GROVE BEND, WILLIAM MAXWELL

Endorsed: Agreement for the purchase of goods in New York.



FROM MRS. DELANCEY.

Mrs. DeLancey's Compliments to Col. Webb; tho' she has not the pleasure of his acquaintance, has taken the liberty of sending a letter to his care for Miss Walton<sup>1</sup> at N. York. Major Clarkson was so obliging as to send Mrs. De Lancey word that Col. Webb was going to New York, and would carry any letters she should send to him. She has sent her letters open; and begs after the Col. has perused them, to satisfy himself they contain nothing of a political nature, he will be so good as to seal them up and deliver them to Miss Walton, and Mrs. Delancey will think herself much obliged to him.

March the 4th, 1779.  
[PHILADELPHIA.]

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

HARTFORD, March 6, 1779.

Dear Webb:

I have the pleasure to inform you that your friends are well. Jack will soon be with you and tell you everything that concerns you in this quarter.

Mrs. Wadsworth troubles you with a little memorandum for seeds to which I have added a shaving apparatus. If it is quite convenient when you go to New York send them, and not otherwise.

I have no news; everything is as usual here. Are like to effect an exchange. Not a line from you since I saw you. I hope you have received my letters of the 26th

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<sup>1</sup> Daughter of William Walton, of St. George's (now Franklin) Square, New York, who had married a daughter of James De Lancey.

ultimo. Farewell, may your hopes be fulfilled respecting your exchange. Mrs. Wadsworth and sisters join me in respectful compliments.

Yours,

JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

Addressed: To Col. Sam. B. Webb, Philadelphia.

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FROM WILLIAM BLODGET.<sup>1</sup>

[RARITON,] 15 March, 1779.

Dear Webb:

The letter which accompanies this contains everything you could wish in regard to the invitation of Miss Bancker and Miss Vanzandt<sup>2</sup> to the hop tomorrow evening. I have mentioned that we will be with them by 12 or 1 o'clock tomorrow, and expect they will be in readiness. You can however write to Miss Bancker, if you think it necessary. It will not be amiss to send your servant off immediately, that we may have an answer tonight.

I am, Dear Sir, Your humble servant,

WILLIAM BLODGET.

Addressed: Colonel Sam'l B. Webb, at Colo. Biddle's Quarters, Camp.

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FROM CATHERINE W. LIVINGSTON.

Waving my not having the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Col. Webb, flatter myself he will excuse

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<sup>1</sup> Of Rhode Island, and for a time aide de camp of General Greene.

<sup>2</sup> Catherine, daughter of Jacobus Van Zandt.

the freedom of inclosing to his care a letter to my Uncle Clarkson; as I am not certain of your taking Morris County in your route, and should I send it to Elizabeth, it may not come opportunely.

In presenting an affectionate remembrance of me to my friends on Long Island, you will oblige their and your well wisher,

CATHERINE W. LIVINGSTON.<sup>1</sup>

PERSIPPINEY, 15th March, 1779.

If Col. Webb can conveniently favor Mrs. Livingston and family with a visit before he returns to Long Island, will make them happy.

Addressed: Colonel Webb, Camp, Rariton. Dr. Draper.

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FROM OTHO H. WILLIAMS.<sup>2</sup>

Williams begs the particular favor of his friend Webb to present his best compliments to Swan, Ramsey, and his other very worthy fellow soldiers in captivity. Mrs. Ramsey will please accept Williams' most respectful compliments. Johnny Crook<sup>3</sup> is humble servant to his dear female friends in Flat Bush. General Thompson and Col. Magaw are old, intimate, and very valuable friends

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<sup>1</sup> Daughter of William Livingston, Governor of New Jersey.

<sup>2</sup> Otho Holland Williams, of Maryland, who was wounded and captured at Fort Washington, and suffered much for fifteen months, at the end of which time he was exchanged. He was Greene's adjutant-general in the Southern campaign and led the Light Corps that served as a rear guard.

<sup>3</sup> A nickname for himself, possibly.

to Williams. His best wishes attend them and all that may be comprehended in that class.

Col. Webb will add very considerably to the proofs of his friendship for Williams, if he will delicately mention his delicate esteem for M[ari]a.

Williams wishes Webb an agreeable passage and speedy return.

Saturday, 20th March, 1779.

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To B. McKENZIE.

Sir:

I am just returned from the country to a state of captivity, which induces me to request you will pay the note of hand given by you to my brother for supplies in similar circumstances. I should not in any other situation make a second application for the money, but my long imprisonment, my great expense, and a knowledge of your going abroad, urges me to it. Your order on your brother for the amount no doubt is good, but that cannot at present answer my immediate demands. Be kind enough to attribute the subject of this letter to my *situation only*, and believe me with

All personal respect,

Your most humble servant,

SAMUEL B. WEBB.

NEW YORK, 24th March, 1779.

## FROM JOHN WILEY.

ELIZABETH TOWN, 30 March, 1779.

Sir:

Please to pay Joseph Webb, Esq., or order, whatever sum you can conveniently spare on my account, and you'll oblige your very humble servant,

JOHN WILEY.

John Livingston, Esq.,<sup>1</sup>

Flatbush, Long Island, or New York.

Capt. Wiley is in distress, and begs the particular attention of his friend Mr. Livingston. Every little will help him. I think he said the felts<sup>2</sup> was sold that you are jointly concerned in.<sup>3</sup>

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## FROM NATHANIEL RAMSEY.

Sir:

Has the flag arrived with your brother yet? Has *Sir Harry*<sup>4</sup> given any answer to the letter which went from here? Have you applied for your Parole?

I send by my servants the two pamphlets to Mr. Pintard which you mentioned to me. Do you think it probable that I could purchase a quarter cask of good Madeira,

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<sup>1</sup> One of the name was a member of the Social Club in New York, which passed its evenings at Fraunces in the winter, and at Kips Bay in the summer. It was dispersed at the opening of the Revolution.

<sup>2</sup> A doubtful word, perhaps by intention to cover some trading matter.

<sup>3</sup> The postscript is by another hand — that of Joseph Webb.

<sup>4</sup> Sir Henry Clinton.



or a gross of good Port, in New York for a 200 dollar loan office certificate? When shall we see you here?

I am your Humble Servant,

NATHANIEL RAMSEY.<sup>1</sup>

Last day of March, [1779.]

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FROM COLONEL AXTELL.

Colonel Axtell's compliments to Colonel Webb. Will be much obliged to him for the senior officers, name of each, and District where the prisoners on parole are canted.

FLAT BUSH, April 16th, 1779.

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FROM OTHO H. WILLIAMS.

Williams presents his best compliments to his friend Webb, and assures him he has not forgot his special commands respecting the subject on the North Branch. As a faithful agent Wms. thinks it his duty to inform his friend that though he must expect competitors; he has his advocates, and the event (at least to a Deputy) appears dubious. Much happiness attend you. My love to Johnny Crooks friends. Adieu.

April 20th, 1779.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel Webb, Long Island.

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<sup>1</sup> Of Smallwood's Maryland Regiment, who had been taken prisoner at Monmouth, June 28, 1778. He held the rank of lieutenant colonel. Exchanged in December, 1780, he retired from the service at the end of the year.

FROM WILLIAM THOMPSON.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Webb:

I would have gone to Flat Bush to have seen you this morning, but am disappointed in getting a horse.

I have sent some letters which were intended to go by Captain Swan to Philadelphia, but as I am told he will not be permitted, must beg you to forward them by the first flag to Elizabeth Town.

I am sorry Swan is not allowed to proceed, as I am certain the supply of cash will neither be so large, nor will it arrive so soon without a person sent on purpose for it.

I thank you for all the good news and your care in procuring such intelligence, and am, Dear Sir, yours very sincerely,

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

Sheriff's, Tuesday Morning.

[GRAVESEND, April, 1779.]

Addressed: To Colonel Webb, Flatbush.

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TWELVE'S LETTER.<sup>2</sup>

This will be handed you by a Friend, with another piece of paper of directions, and says a safe place for you to immediately send the following things in a portmanteau well locked. They'll arrive safe beyond a doubt, and I think I am confident the affair is well contrived. You

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<sup>1</sup> Brigadier General Thompson, who had served in the Canada expedition and suffered capture in the disastrous attack upon Trois Rivières.

<sup>2</sup> This is the endorsement. The letter is addressed merely to "Twelve." It may be connected with the agreement on trade made in March, p. 100, *supra*.

may take a friend to share profit or loss. My friend here and myself expect half — you and your friend half. I should write you by the Dittonary [dictionary], but have not got it here. The sooner you improve this opportunity, the sooner we'll let you know of the success so as to improve another. I write you soon again, but before I write I expect to receive the portmanteau or trunk as you may judge best. The half of the money I'll be accountable for as you can get. Adieu.

I should think the following things: 1 ps. Crimson Silk Gauze; 1 ps. green good silk gauzes. Mitinett gauze. Catgut. White and black Persian fasnets. Black ribbons and others. Black feathers and white. Pattinett gauze. 2 or 3 ps. Linnen will do well.

I wish you to put in the baggage for my friend,

A sadle Cloth like yours, a red Moroco Razor case like yours, 3 Silver Epoletts, 3 doz. cards, and when convenient opportunity offers to the same place, a Hamper [of] Porter.

#### DICTIONARY

I think you may haste the affair and make much.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

This will be handed you by Capt. Rogers, a prisoner now on his parole to New York, who says he'll deliver it with his own hands. I have sent by him American newspapers which may amuse you. I must own after parting with you and Mr. Winslow and really on the passage, I reflected how chagrined all your friends would be to see me without you; in short how to account for it I am at a loss; but I cannot but think the general exchange will take immediate

place. Should it, or should it not, write me by every opportunity. I need not tell you how disappointed the family were that you did not come. We had rather a tedious passage to Norwalk, but Mr. Apthorp and his lady, and all of us, made out as well as could possibly be expected, and all of us treated with much politeness and civility. Mr. Apthorp bought him a horse at Norwalk, has spent two days in Wethersfield, and went from here early on yesterday morning for Boston. I have received a number of letters from our Boston friends who are well and in high expectation of seeing of you. Tell friends B. and R.<sup>1</sup> that I am much disappointed about the dittos omitted sending me that I first picked out, which is quite unfortunate.

Our aged Grandmother was buried while I was in York. I wish you would let Richard buy me some late and early Colliflower seed, which I forgot, and send me per the first opportunity. Remember me to Mrs. Abbot Sutherland, Capt. Frazer and your friends. Adieu my dear friend and brother,

JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD April 23, 1779.

The bearer, Capt. Rogers, is on parole and in hopes at least to convince Mr. [ ] and Burton that they are willing to exchange on this side; particulars I refer to him for. There was brought into Boston last week 2 Field Officers prisoners, 24 Commissions officers, British, &c., &c., bound to Georgia. I say this, that I could get one of the Field Officers for you, provided Sir Henry Clinton will consent; but I confess I think we have asked as much as

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<sup>1</sup> Berry and Rogers.

we can, and I hope you'll put on patience and make the best of it.

We dined upon a most lovely *Salmon*. I wish you had it. Rivington or Gain will be much obliged to you to exchange their papers for these from time to time.

Send me a pocketbook, best for 8 dollars.

2 pair common temple spectacles for persons at 53.

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FROM AQUILA GILES.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Colonel:

You will much oblige me by asking Berry and Rogers if their Spy glasses and Pistoles are come in. Pray are you like to get out, or do they mean to use you as they have heretofore. I'm with every sentiment of esteem, Dear Colonel, Yours sincerely,

A. GILES.

FLAT BUSH, Thursday morning, [April, 1779.]

This day I understand Magaw is to [be] join'd in the bands of Hymen.

Addressed: Colo. S. B. Webb, N. York.

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FROM JAMES KEENS.

NEW YORK, 27th April, 1779.

Sir:

Mr. Loring was just gone out when Richard gave me your letter. I left it on his table so as he may see it when

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<sup>1</sup> Of Maryland, and aide de camp to General St. Clair. When he was captured I have not learned, but he remained a prisoner until November, 1780. He served to the end of the war.



he dresses for dinner, as there is a deal of company to dine with him this day. I am sorry I cannot see him, so as he might answer your letter by Richard, but you may depend upon it I'll see him in the morning before I leave town.

Mr. Loring cannot give you any satisfactory account concerning you being exchanged for one of the officers taken in the *Eagle* Packet. As soon as he can with any propriety he'll let you know. Mr. L[oring] is always ready to serve you; proper opportunity must be observed. I assure you I am never happier than when I can do you any service.

I am sir your most Obedient Humble Servant,  
JAMES KEENS.

Addressed: Colonel S. B. Webb, Flat Bush.

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FROM JAMES KEENS.

Sir:

I am going to Eliz. Town tomorrow morning early with Generals Thompson and Waterbury, Col. McGaw, &c., &c.

I wish to know if you intend sending Mrs. Brazier the sugar and Howe's acid according a former promise. I am doubtful your approbation will not reach me in time, so I'll at hazard take a small loaf of sugar and 2 or 3 bottles of acid, and place it to your account.

I am sir Your most obedient humble servant,  
J. KEENS.

NEW YORK, 2nd [May, 1779.]

Addressed: Colonel Webb, Flat Bush.

FROM RICHARD SWANWICK.

NEW YORK, 5 May, 1779.

Sir:

I am in hopes by means of the obliging letters given to me when I last saw you to see my dear wife here; and it will further add to the kind obligation, if you press the matter upon any of your brother officers going out, that by means of united and generous interest I may obtain the much wished for sight of my Dear Wife. I have obtained for you and Mr. Willing two hampers of the best London Porter, which will be delivered to the bearer of the inclosed note whenever called for. I am seeking some other necessary things for you and Mr. Willing, of which I shall ere long inform you.

Services done to my unhappy wife cannot fail to engage my warmest gratitude, and hence it is that I wish for opportunity to render any acceptable services to you, or any of your brother officers, to whom I beg my compliments, being very respectfully, Sir, Your most obedient Very humble servant,

RICHARD SWANWICK.

1 Hamper for Colonel Webb

1 Do. for Capt. Willing

Please to tell Capt. Willing to send to Peter Lenox Tavern near the ship yards for two jars of excellent pickled oysters there for him.

Addressed: Colonel Webb, Flat Bush.

FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

FLAT BUSH, 11th May, 1779.

My Dear Colonel:

Should you not succeed in bringing about a partial exchange for what officers we have of the British for an equal number of ours, prisoners on Long Island, pray send in officers of equal rank with Riley, Hopkins and myself, that we may go out on Parole. Capt. Goodale <sup>1</sup> and Mr. Tanner <sup>2</sup> will esteem it a very great favor done them if you can send in two gentlemen that they may go out on Parole. Should you be so unfortunate as not to get yourself exchanged, nor be able to send in an officer for me, and you be under the disagreeable necessity of returning to your captivity, pray be so kind as to purchase a horse for me and bring in with you, that I may be better able to spend the remaining part of my captivity in as agreeable a manner as possible. I am too sensible you know our disagreeable situation, and am sure you will do everything in your power to relieve us. Pray remember me to all friends. God bless you and send you all you wish and all you desire.

I am with affection and esteem your Most Obedient  
Servant,

EDWARD BULKLEY.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B. Webb, at Flat Bush.

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<sup>1</sup> Nathan Goodale, of Massachusetts, captain in the 5th Regiment, wounded and taken prisoner at King's Bridge, August 30, 1778. He was not exchanged until October, 1780.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Tanner, second lieutenant in Bradley's Connecticut Battalion, taken prisoner at Fort Washington in November, 1776.

FROM WILLIAM THOMPSON.

Dear Webb:

The matter is at last fixed for our going out on Thursday morning. Come to town as soon as possible. Our Paroles to be 'till called for or exchanged.

Send Colonel Magaw's letter to him without loss of time, as I suppose he will take out Mrs. Magaw, and will have little time to prepare. My best compliments to my friends at Flat Bush, and am, Dear sir, yours very sincerely,

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

Tuesday Evening, [NEW YORK, May 12, 1779.]

Addressed: To Colo. Samuel Webb, Flat Bush.

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FROM JOSHUA LORING.

NEW YORK, May 12th, 1779.

Sir:

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Commander in Chief has consented to your going home on your Parole, and to remain till called for. You have therefore permission to come to New York, with your Baggage, as soon as it is convenient to you, for which this will be your sufficient Pass.

I am, Sir, Your most obedient and Most humble servant,

JOS. LORING,  
*Com. Genl. Prsn.*

Addressed: To Colo. Samuel Webb, Prisoner on Long Island.

FROM BENJAMIN BROWN.

CAMP, [RARITON,] Friday Evening, May 28, 1779.

Sir:

Short after you was gone the boy I sent to Mr. Cary's returned without a bundle, and said Mrs. Cary's compliments to you, and that she had sent the bundle left by you to Lord Sterling's. Make no doubt you will hear of its arrival as I suppose you halt at his Lordship's.

I am, Sir, With the greatest respect Your Most obedient Humble Servant,

BENJAMIN BROWN.

FROM MRS. G. APTHORP.

Sir:

Your polite offers of conveying a letter to Major Bayard has embolden me to trouble you with a letter, begging you to forward it with a line from yourself, entreating him to send me out a few articles if not contrary to orders. In that case I suppose you can continue to intercede so that I may have them, as they are only small matters for my own use. Your kind attention in this will greatly oblige, Sir, Your Humble Servant,

G. APTHORP.

July 3. If you go into York yourself, shall esteem it a particular favor you will see Major B[ayard]<sup>1</sup> and consult him about sending them.

[BOSTON, June, 1779.]

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Bayard held a commission in the Loyalist Regiment of the King's Orange Rangers, but he did not have the rank of Major until 1787. He was an importing merchant in 1768, with a place on Queen Street.



## FROM COLONEL JOHN BEATTY.

Colonel Beatty returns his compliments to Colonel Webb. Would do himself the pleasure of breakfasting with him but is prevented by preparing some letters, etc., for him. Will wait on him certainly this morning before eleven o'clock, and begs he may not go away without seeing of him.

Thursday morning, 7 o'clock.

[MIDDLEBROOK, June, 1779.]

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B. Webb, at Colo. Biddle's Quarters.

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

FLAT BUSH, 17th June, 1779.

Dear Colonel:

Yesterday received your kind favor of the 9th instant by the hand of Capt. Rankin.<sup>1</sup> By it am agreeably informed of your safe arrival at the place you much wished. I congratulate you. At the same time I lament you have not effected that you so much wished for, viz. an exchange for yourself and friends. Have delivered and made your compliments to Mr. Clarkson and family, and your many other friends. Mr. E. L. has called for payment for the two barrels flour that you said Mrs. Miller had. She declares she has not received any, but that Richard was to deliver her two, but did not. I wish you to inform me more particular about them. Have settled your account with Mr. Vanderbelt. Riley and Hopkins are well and

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Rankin of Virginia.

desire to be remembered to you. Mr. Clarkson and family are well, as is the ladies near my Quarters, and desire their compliments to you. Please to make my compliments to your brother and his family, to Capt. Riley and his family, and all friends. I have nothing further to add but best wishes for a speedy exchange for yourself and your friends. I am with the greatest affection, Dear Colonel, your most Obedient Humble servant,

EDWARD BULKLEY.

Addressed: Collonel Samuel B. Webb, Wethersfield. Captain Robert Rankin.

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FROM SARAH BARRELL.<sup>1</sup>

BOSTON, June 20th, 1779.

My Dear Brother:

This afternoon Mr. Wikoff leaves town for Philadelphia. By him I send your key. Am very sorry that we did not get Josey's letter sooner. I was at Mr. Temple's<sup>2</sup> when the post went out. Hetty is still there; expect her tomorrow with the family who is to dine here. It gives me sincere pleasure to hear that you are permitted once more to visit your friends again, who have long wished to see you, but none more than myself, and shall not forgive you if you dont spend part of your time with me before your return. I have much to say to you, so has Hetty; but you must come here for I am determined that she dont leave me this some time, for with each other we are happy; separated, *I* am miserable. Remember me to all my dear brothers and

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Simpson became Mrs. Joseph Barrell on November 16, 1778.

<sup>2</sup> At Ten Hills.

sisters. I have not time to write them by this conveyance, which I am sorry for. Mr. Barrell joins me in love to you and the family. Write me by every opportunity, and believe that I am and ever will be your sincere friend and most affectionate sister,

SARAH BARRELL.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B. Webb, at Wethersfield. Favored [by] Mr. Wikoff.

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FROM CAPTAIN BEDLOW.

Capt. Bedlow's best respects to Colonel Webb and will be glad to see him at Clinton House. He has been ill with a dysentery, otherway would have waited on him.

Wednesday Evening.

[NEW WINDSOR, June, 1779.]

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JOHN WITHERSPOON TO COL. UDNEY HAY.<sup>1</sup>

MORRISTOWN, July 5th, 1779.

Sir:

On my return to Fishkill I went out to inquire after my mare and received for answer, that she would not be fit to travel these two months. It was not convenient for me to stay and I was sorry I did not see you. The mare is a creature I value very much, and I am anxious that great care should be taken of her.

I have no high opinion of much Farriery in such a case,

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<sup>1</sup> A copy in Webb's writing. Hay was Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General, and a native of Pennsylvania.

and the less opinion of your Farrier for the horribly profane expression he was pleased to use to my servant when he was first sent to him, and *therefore* I intend to inclose this to Mr. Loudon,<sup>1</sup> and desire him to take the mare and put her to grass in some safe place, unless you should yourself be of opinion that she cannot be removed.

I very much desire to have a line from you upon the subject. The mare I had from you I shall return after she has rested awhile at Princeton, and in the meantime I shall beg your directions on that subject.

I am, sir, your most obedient Humble Servant,

JOHN WITHERSPOON.<sup>2</sup>

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JOSHUA LORING TO LIEUT. COL. SIMCOE.<sup>3</sup>

Dear Sir:

I should take it as a particular favor if you would forward the inclosed by a flag to the enemy's out post, where

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Loudon, printer of the *New York Packet and American Advertiser*. He had emigrated from Ireland and kept a ship-chandler's shop in New York, but established his newspaper in 1763, opening later a bookstore in Water Street, near Old Slip. A Whig in politics, he removed his press and types to Fishkill, returning to New York on the peace, where his paper continued to be issued in 1793, but under another name — *The Diary, or Loudon's Register*.

<sup>2</sup> Member of the Continental Congress, clergyman and president of Princeton College.

<sup>3</sup> John Graves Simcoe, commandant of a provincial corps, the "Queen's Rangers," an efficient and brave soldier, whose experiences are related in his *Journal of the War in America*. In 1790 he entered Parliament from Cornwall, but in the following year was appointed the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, serving under Lord Dorchester. He died in 1806.

I believe Mr. Nathan Frink is waiting for it, as you will see by the inclosed papers.

I am with great esteem, Your most obedient and Most Humble servant,

JOSHUA LORING.

NEW YORK, 31st July, [1779].

Addressed: Lt. Colo. Simcoe, Commanding Queen's Rangers.

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FROM GEORGE DRAPER.

[July, 1779.]

Dear Sir:

If you go to New York, I beg you will purchase for me to the amount of two guineas such corduroy as you can at present. I am, Dear sir, Your very obedient servant,

GEORGE DRAPER.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l Webb, at General Greene's Quarters.

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FROM THOMAS MUMFORD.

GROTON, 11th August, 1779.

Dear Sir:

I promised myself the pleasure of seeing you here before this, which I had a right to expect from your favor of 15th ultimo. Have lately heard you was gone to Head Quarters to effect your exchange, in which I sincerely hope you will succeed, not only for your own personal satisfaction, but for the benefit of the Public Service, particularly your Regiment where you are exceedingly needed. Still hope



for the satisfaction of seeing you at my house soon after your return from Head Quarters, when I hope to be able to congratulate you on your release from captivity. My son<sup>1</sup> is now at Boston refitting my Sloop *Hancock*, which narrowly escaped the *Greyhound* Frigate by outsailing her, but threw eight of her cannon over.

My Compliments to your brother and lady, and believe me your real and affectionate

THOMAS MUMFORD.

Addressed: To Colo. Samuel B. Webb, in Weathersfield.

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FROM FREDERICK JAY.

Dear Sir:

Being just informed that you are going to New York in a few days, I have taken the liberty to trouble you with the inclosed letters which you'll please to have delivered as directed. I wish you all the success possible, and am  
Your very obedient servant,

FREDERICK JAY.

RED Hook, 16th August, 1779.

Addressed: Collo. Webb, at ——. Per Mr. Lane.

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CLUB DINNER.

WETHERSFIELD, August 24th, 1779.

A CLUB DINNER is proposed to be at Samuel Stillman's house on Thursday, at Two o'clock, on turtle, when the following gentlemen's company is desired.

ELIZUR GOODRICH, RILEY, ETC.

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<sup>1</sup> Giles Mumford.

Capt. JOHN CHENEVARD	Hartford
Mr. JAMES CHURCH	"
Mr. JOHN BIGELOW	"
Capt. JAMES WATSON	"
Col. HEZ. WILLYS <sup>1</sup>	"
Col. JOHN BROOME	"
Mr. NEHEMIAH HUBBARD <sup>2</sup>	"
Mr. JEREMIAH PLATT	"
Mr. EBENEZER PLATT	"
Capt. CALEB BULL, Jr. <sup>3</sup>	"
Capt. SMEDLEY <sup>4</sup>	"
Mr. JOSEPH BULL	"
Mr. WM. IMLAY	"
Capt. ELIZUR GOODRICH	Wethersfield
Capt. ASHBEL RILEY <sup>5</sup>	"
A. ROBBINS	"
Capt. C. BULKLEY	
Capt. JOHN BULKLEY Jr.	
Capt. JOHN CHESTER	
Mr. LEONARD CHESTER	
Capt. THOMAS NEWTON	gone
Capt. ELIJAH WRIGHT <sup>6</sup>	
Mr. B[ARNABAS] DEANE	
Mr. JOSEPH WEBB	
Col. SAMUEL B. WEBB	
Mr. JOHN WRIGHT	
Mr. ALEXANDER HUNT	
Mr. JUSTUS RILEY	
Mr. GEORGE STANLY	
Mr. SIMEON BELDEN	
Mr. DANIEL BUCK	
Col. AARON BURR	Middletown

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<sup>1</sup> Captain in the 6th Battalion Connecticut Militia, Wadsworth's Brigade.

<sup>2</sup> In the State Quartermaster's department.

<sup>3</sup> Commissioned Captain in Webb's regiment in 1777, but resigned in 1778.

<sup>4</sup> Captain of the *Hibernia* and *Recovery*, privateers.

<sup>5</sup> An old trader to the West Indies and now engaged in privateers.

<sup>6</sup> In the Connecticut militia.

Mr. GEORGE STARR	Middletown
Mr. NATHAN SAGE	"
Capt. MOSES WILLIAMS	
Mr. WILLIAM GRISWOLD	
Mr. WAIT GOODRICH	Glastonbury
Maj. JOSHUA HUNTINGTON	
Mr. JAMES LOCKWOOD	
Mr. WILLIAM MAY	
Mr. STEPHEN MITCHEL	
Mr. JOSEPH HILLMAN	
Mr. JOSIAH DEMING	
Capt. ALLYN STILLMAN	
Mr. EBENEZER WRIGHT	
Mr. JOSEPH BUTLER	
Capt. CHESTER WILLIS	
Mr. WILLIAM BEADLE	
Mr. PETER COLT	
WILLIAM DEMING	
Capt. MOSES TAYLOR	
Lieut. JOHN HANMER	
Mr. JOSIAH BUCK	
Capt. LUKE FORTUNE	gone
Mr. DU CASS	
Mr. VIOLANG	

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

FLAT BUSH, September, 1779.

Dear Colonel:

I received yours of the 9th instant, and by it I am informed you are on the business of exchange; hope you may not be disappointed. You seem to be surprised at the conduct of some gentlemen here. It is really a matter of surprise. I could say much on this subject, but for good reasons shall omit it until a more convenient season, as I have but little prospect of being released from my captivity until I have spent another winter here. Have

determined to form a mess of four, and live in as agreeable a manner as our situation will allow. The present manner of our living with the inhabitants in their style, you know is truly disagreeable and far from being fit for any other persons but such as themselves. To live like gentlemen of Colonel Webb's Regiment have requested Colonel Wadsworth to send on a small supply, a copy of which have inclosed for your perusal, and in case he cannot attend to our request, am sure you feel for us and will send such supplies as we have asked from him. The good family at the half way house are all well, so are the ladies near my quarters. Mr. Riley and your Adjutant<sup>1</sup> are both well and join in this request. Please to make my best compliments to Mr. Webb and his family and all my friends in Wethersfield. Shall be very happy to hear from you every opportunity.

I am, Dear Colonel, Your Most Obedient and Very humble servant,

EDWARD BULKLEY.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Wethersfield in the State of Connecticut.

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FROM SILAS DEANE.

MURDERERS CREEK, October 15th, 1779.

My Dr. Col. Webb:

I promised myself the pleasure of seeing you at Head Quarters, but have been disappointed not only of this but of receiving any letter from you by my Brother. I return to Philadelphia tomorrow and after a short stay

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<sup>1</sup> Elisha Hopkins.

there shall proceed to Virginia to embark. I shall write you from Philadelphia, and therefore refer you at present to my Brother for particulars. I pray to hear from you by every opportunity, and that you will be assured I am ever most affectionately your sincere Friend and very Humble Servant,

SILAS DEANE.

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FROM JOHN BEATTY.

BETHLEHEM, Sunday Morning, [November, 1779.]

Dear Sir:

I have this moment received your favor of last evening. Will wait on you if possible, but fear I shall not be able, as I am much indisposed this morning. Added to this I fear my feeble efforts will add nothing to your intentions in going to Philadelphia. I wish you may succeed, but depend on it it is only a finesse. A direct answer to the certificate will serve your purposes better. If I should not come by eleven, you will please to leave a line for me, and rest assured of every service in my power. My sulky would only deceive you. It is much out of repair, and is now at the smiths to be mended.

I am, dear sir, yours,

JNO. BEATTY.

Colonel Beatty will thank Colonel Webb to take charge of the letters which accompany this.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B. Webb, at Colo. Wadsworth's.



FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, 1st November, 1779.

Dear Sam:

Tho I've nothing particular to say to you, yet as you Gentry of the long sword are so very tenacious of the respect that is due from us plebeians, I intend to spoil this half sheet, least my omitting it may offend your highness. Your powder is not yet here; when it arrives I'll do the best I can. What's become of the *Gates* and *Washington*?<sup>1</sup> Why were they not in company with the *Experiment*?<sup>2</sup> that you might have made your fortune when Bro. Jo made his? I fear the season is too far advanced for such little fry to do anything and indeed I [torn] part of them, that if you want to increase your [torn] say the word what you will give for mine. I [torn] may have it in your power to secure it for your share, for I've lately dip't largely this way, and at New London are vessels that would take both *Washington* and *Gates* and stow them away very slyly where they could not easily be found. I mean the vessels, *not the men*, for I should be sorry to have them secreted until the game is up. Foolish Britain, she is just beginning to reap the bitter fruit of her wickedness with respect to America. If you are sick of your wife Hetty, you may bring her this way; and if you'll promise to dine with us once in a fortnight, you may come yourself, and I'll give you a glass of wine nearly equal to satisfaction, lately purchaised from the

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<sup>1</sup> Privateers which had been quite successful in taking prizes.

<sup>2</sup> The *Experiment* was a schooner of twelve guns, and a crew of eighty men, owned by William Griswold and Company of Wethersfield. The master's name was Nathan Sage. In 1780 the same vessel sailed under Giles Hall, Jr. and John Bulkley, Jr. and was then owned by Barnabas Deane and Company.

— frigates prizes. Adieu. I'm in haste, sleepy as a dog.  
Yrs. &c., &c., &c.,

J. B.

Addressed: Colonel Saml. B. Webb, at Wethersfield.

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

FLAT BUSH, 13th November, 1779.

Dear Colonel:

By Mr. Bull am agreeably informed you and friends are well. Am much disappointed you cannot comply with our request for necessaries. Your friends here are well. I wish you every good thing this world affords, while we are here enjoying the comforts of confinement and feasting upon speck and clippers. I am, dear Colonel, your unfortunate

EDWARD BULKLEY.

Addressed: Collonel Samuel B. Webb, Wethersfield, Connecticut.  
Per favour Mr. Bull.

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

PHILADELPHIA, December 24, 1779.

Dear Webb:

I have your two favors, the first inclosing a letter to Miss B[ancker].<sup>1</sup> Be assured I will send it by a careful hand, or deliver it myself when I return. Your brother may be assured of my attending to his affairs, and you to yours the moment I can have time, but at this instant I am more distressed than ever I was since you knew me. I am constrained to stay here buried in business and slaving day

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<sup>1</sup> Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 222.

and night. The immediate calls of the army demand my whole attention and that of everybody else. God send us better times. Sleep to which I have been lately much a stranger forbids me to add more than that I am Yours,

JERE WADSWORTH.

Addressed: Col. Sam B. Webb, Wethersfield.

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FROM SAMUEL ALLEYNE OTIS.

Sunday Morning, [January 23, 1780.]

Mr. Otis compliments to his most valued friends Col. and Capt. Webb, and wishes them an agreeable journey. They may depend upon every degree of attention to the particulars of Col. Webb's billett, and as a letter by the post may be productive of one from them in return, the love of pleasure will most certainly induce Mr. O. to take the first opportunity of writeing.

The worthy brothers will not forget their friends when they draw the corks, and 'tis expected the Lady in Long Acre and at the Rope Walks will be toasted in more than one bumper.

God bless you my friends. Long life and laurells to you!

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FROM NATHAN BEERS.<sup>1</sup>

CAMP NEAR MORRIS TOWN, in Marque, 26th Jany., 1780.

Dear Colonel:

As the times of service of a number of the men of your Regiment expires on the first of February, 1780, and a

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<sup>1</sup> Paymaster to Webb's Regiment.

considerable number very soon after, I am necessitated to call upon you for the accounts of cloathing delivered to the Regiment in the year 1777, and to the time that Col. Huntington took charge of the same, without which it will be impossible for me to make a settlement with the men agreeable to his Excellency's orders of the 6th instant; wherein the Regimental Pay Masters are directed to settle with the man for all arrearages of cloathing and wages due to them up to the time of their discharge.

My particular situation must be my apology for troubling you at this time, as I cannot come at the accounts through any other channel.

Wishing you health and a speedy exchange, I remain your Humble Servant,

NATHAN BEERS.

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, Connecticut, Wethersfield.

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FROM NEHEMIAH HUBBARD.

HARTFORD, January 30th, 1780.

Dear Sir:

I am favored with yours of this date. The letters you left with me were forwarded, but I cannot inform you by whom they were sent.

I will see Mr. Olcott this evening and desire him to pay particular attention to your horses.

Should any opportunity to Head Quarters offer, you may depend on being advertised. Your obedient Humble servant,

N. HUBBARD.

Addressed: Colo. Sam. B. Webb, Weathersfield.

## TO THOMAS MUMFORD.

Sir: Sunday Evening, 7 O'Clock, [February, 1780.]

I this moment received your Billet in which you mention your disappointment in not seeing me as proposed. I know of no other appointment made than that you said you should see me in the morning. My indisposition prevented my attending Church. I flattered myself you would call. For that purpose I had, agreeable to my promise, collected the Bills and wrote what I now enclose. As to my brother's borrowing of you Fifty Guineas for me twelve months past, I confess I was ignorant; to oblige you, sir, was a sufficient inducement for me to part with the carriage, and as he is in your debt on my account (*owing to my unfortunate captivity*) it will be my desire to see you properly and honorably paid, either in money, carriages or any other thing I have to dispose of. I am, sir, your most Humble servant,

S. B. WEBB.

The Phaeton & Harness (independent of the Tickling cover, cost with the additional Bills for brasses, false collars and bridle bits, 76 Guineas @ 28/ is . . . £106.8/

The weare and tear of the carriage *since*, I conceive but trifling, nor have I a doubt it would command the above some in Philadelphia immediately. However, if Mr. Mumford should have an inclination for it, for his own use, Col. Webb will consent to be a looser 40 dollars from the cost. A cheaper one may be bought, but none that I have seen *so good*.

Copy sent Mr. Mumford, Sunday Evening, 7 o'clock, inclosed in a letter in answer to his of this date.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The postscript is not in Webb's writing.



FROM THOMAS MUMFORD.

Sir:

I covet no man's property; therefore, as you say you have no doubt of obtaining the sum in Philadelphia that your Phaeton cost you, have no desire to obtain it for a less sum; but that being considerable more than I am willing to give, shall think no more of purchasing it; I had a Right to suppose your Brother would have informed you I lent him the fifty Guineys mentioned in my Billet, as he knew I lent them purely to oblige Colo. Webb. Am sorry my desire to oblige a friend in captivity should now be otherways construed; gratitude is a virtue I am happy to possess. I have no Legal Right to call on Col. Webb for any sums furnished his Brother, but as his said Brother informed me he wanted the money only for you, and found it very difficult to obtain what solid coin was necessary, I freely lent it. I see no impropriety in giving this information. The amount of the Dutch Bill you are acquainted with, which with the Guineys I will thank you to inform your Brother I am in want of.

I am, sir, your most obedient and very humble servant,  
THOS. MUMFORD.

WEATHERSFIELD, Sunday evening.  
13 February, 1780.

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FROM JAMES WATSON.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Col:

I was unexpectedly detained yesterday that I could not meet you as proposed. It will be no disadvantage, I

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioned a captain in Webb's regiment, January 1, 1777, but resigned, and in 1780 became State Commissary of Purchases.

suppose, as the Committee of Pay Table<sup>1</sup> will any time take your Receipt and balance my account.

When I was at your house I left a certificate respecting some powder, which I beg of you to leave with your Brother for me. It is a matter of great consequence to me to have the certificate, and I must intreat you by no means to forget it.

I wish you a good journey and a speedy exchange with as much sincerity as I have ever been Your friend and Humble servant,

J. WATSON.

HARTFORD, February 26, 1780.

Addressed: Colo. Sam. B. Webb, Weathersfield.

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FROM JOHN RICE.<sup>2</sup>

BOSTON, Feby. 29th, 1780.

Sir:

I have just received your letter of the 21st instant, enclosing one addressed to Major Harnage,<sup>3</sup> which you may be assured shall be delivered him with safety and dispatch.

I am, Sir, Your most obedient and very humble servant,  
JOHN RICE.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B Webb, at Headquarters, Morristown.

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<sup>1</sup> A committee of the Assembly, instituted in April, 1775, to "examine, liquidate, adjust, settle and give needful orders for the payment" of accounts arising from the raising and equipment of soldiers.

<sup>2</sup> Had been a captain in the 18th Regiment of Continental Infantry.

<sup>3</sup> Major Henry Harnage, of the 62d Regiment of Foot, of which Valentine Jones was the colonel.

FROM ELISHA HOPKINS.

FLAT BUSH, 7th March, 1780.

Dear Colonel:

We wrote you by Col. Towles<sup>1</sup> requesting that some necessary supplies might be sent, to enable us (in case of an Exchange) to discharge such private debts as we have been necessitated to contract, on the other hand to render our situation more agreeable if we *must* remain. For which purpose we shall endeavor to procure permission for such articles to come in as you may think proper to send.

Mr. and Mrs. T——be desire to be particularly remembered to their old friend. We have received every mark of friendship and politeness from that gentleman and lady. Should be happy to have it in our power to get the last a little *salmon*.

Major Giles will be able to inform you respecting the half way House and the manœuvres in Limboshire.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Fitzhugh and Blewer are present and desire their particular compliments. Dear Colonel, I have the honor to subscribe In behalf of the Officers of your Corps with the Highest respect and esteem,

ELISHA HOPKINS.

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<sup>1</sup> Oliver Towles of the 6th Regiment, who was captured in December, 1777, and exchanged towards the end of 1780. He was a Virginian.

<sup>2</sup> A name for Flatbush.

FROM GEORGE OLCOTT.<sup>1</sup>

WETHERSFIELD, March 20th, 1780.

Sir:

I take this opportunity (if not too late) to rectify the mistake I made in information, in giving you the minute of the Instruments I requested purchased. Instead of a case of Bistorys I want a case of Dissecting [     ]; And further request if the money sent fall short of their prices, that you advance it for me if you can with conveniency and not disoblige your[self. The] Instruments shall be your security till you receive the money. You add [the] lawfull interest and full compensation for your trouble. From your humble servant,

GEORGE OLCOTT.

Addressed: Colo. Saml. B. Webb, Morristown.

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FROM JOHN CARTER.

BOSTON, March 26th, 1780.

Dear Sir:

I am favored with yours of the 28th ultimo. I am exceedingly obliged to you for your caution respecting my letter, and hope you have by this time found an opportunity to forward it. I long much to hear from you about Business. General Schuyler is at Philadelphia. I have wrote to him by this conveyance desiring him to request of General Washington permission for me to go to New York and I hope his application will be attended with success.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. George Olcott, who became one of the original members of the Connecticut Medical Society, in 1792.

Mrs. Carter and Miss Schuyler desire their particular compliments to you. Erskine and Harry have left us; you have doubtless seen them before this. We still keep it up here pretty well, and the lads are in good spirits. Adieu. I am ever sincerely yours,

JOHN CARTER.

Addressed: Coll. Saml. B Webb, to the care of Major-General Greene, near Head Quarters, Morristown.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

I have only time to say that untill the arrival of your letter of today the whole family have thought extremely hard of you for your neglect of writing. We have had several family hops since your arrival which have been vastly agreeable, indeed much beyond what could have expected. Last evening there was a large collection of officers, etc. at Middletown, and this evening all meet at Windsor. For news of all kinds I refer you to the bearer.

The 264 is arrived but 408 90 her 324's [cargoe?] has about hrrrr wt of sugar, some coffee, etc., but no great things to brag of. Her 324 [cargoe?] will 197 [net?] us hrrr £ and she's now coming up the river. The 455 is gone down. will 315 from 455 £ --- in h 214.690 375 448 568 are 366ed One hth. 376 a 207 thing.<sup>1</sup> Your baggage is yet at the store. Lockwood has had a pretty arrival. Tryon<sup>2</sup> from P. A Prince. Colt is concerned. What's become of my Magazines? What's become of Beatty-arnold? More

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<sup>1</sup> Referring to some privateering venture, but indecipherable without the key.

<sup>2</sup> Moses Tryon commanded the *Jason*. He was of Wethersfield.



I cant write, as the bearer waits. Hubbard promises your baggage to go on tomorrow or next day. Write me as often as possible. Adieu.

All friends desire to be remembered Yrs. Affectionately,  
J. W.

29th March, 1780.

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FROM EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

Dear Webb:

This whole day have I flattered myself with the pleasing thoughts of drinking tea at Mrs. Greene's <sup>1</sup> this afternoon, in Company with Miss Bancker and Miss Lott,<sup>2</sup> etc., etc., but instead of that at 4 o'clock I find myself in *Hutt*, on business which threatens me during the evening.

Upon some occasions I should suppose the weather might induce me to remain at home; but at this time the weather would be too trifling an excuse, and on that account that Rascall of a *Business* has intruded to prevent my promis[ed] Pleasure. That being the case, permit me to trouble you in presenting my compliments to the Ladies, and in the same pretty way you speak for yourself, then (in my misfortune) I shall be honored.

Ashur waits on you for your directions for Gra[wafer.]

If your slender Constitution will receive no injury from the weather, nor your feelings by the absence from the company of the Ladies and Gentlemen, permit me to

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<sup>1</sup> Wife of Nathanael Greene. She was Catherine Littlefield, daughter of John Littlefield.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham Lott married Gertrude, daughter of Andrew Coeyman, and had one son, Andrew, and four daughters. Catharine married Col. William Livingston and Cornelia, Comfort Sands. Two daughters remained unmarried.

request your company at the Hutt this night, and in the morning you may enter on your command of me for the day. Adieu.

EB. HUNTINGTON.

Monday, [March, 1780.]

P. S. Jackson will call for you on his return from General Knox and expect your company to the Hutt.

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FROM EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

Thursday, 1 o'clock, [April, 1780.]  
[Camp near MORRISTOWN.]

Dear Webb:

Before I received your note by Richard I sent a lad with one to Morris Town, but it was too late; you had gone. I have sent by Richard a few balls which I have procured, but as to powder or more ball, I can send none without making use of the publick cartridges, which I can not think justifiable. I have so often made excuses for not visiting Mr. Lott's family (tho' never without really having one), that I am unwilling to repeat it; but am obliged to in justification of my own feelings, and in compliance to the true politeness I have received from that family. The C[ourt] Martial is not dissolved, and [I] expect it will sit tomorrow. I wish you to assure Mr. Lott that I am not *callous* to the civilities I have received, and to *convince him*, [I] *will as soon as I can* take my horse in the morning, and just alight myself at Brunswyck to spend the day with the family.

As soon as the Weekly Return is made out I will send him two carpenters agreeable to his desire for a week.

Make my compliments to the family and believe to be yours Sincerely,

EBEN. HUNTINGTON.

Addressed: Colonel Webb, Beverwyck. Per Richard.

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FROM GEORGE OLNEY.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir:

MORRIS TOWN, 18th April, 1780.

Mrs. Greene declines letting her carriage go to the Raraton, lest any movement of the enemy in its absence should make her departure hence necessary!

My horse and chaise is at your service; but as it would not be clever for the ladies to drive, especially as the horse is rather skittish and unused to a carriage, I suppose this conveyance would not comport with your wishes; if it will, Mrs. Olney will be ready to attend you at any hour you please tomorrow morning. With esteem, I am,  
Dear Sir, Your Friend and servant,

GEORGE OLNEY.

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FROM WALTER STEWART.<sup>2</sup>

Dear Webb: Thursday afternoon, [MORRISTOWN, May, 1780.]

I received the Herring, for which [I] return my sincere thanks.

I am rather unwell today. Should the indisposition continue, I much fear I shall not be able to visit the

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<sup>1</sup> Of Rhode Island, In October he was appointed by the General Assembly to "post up the accounts of this State against the United States," and was, later, receiver of the Continental taxes.

<sup>2</sup> Colonel of the 2d Pennsylvania Regiment. He had been aide de camp to General Gates in 1776.

Raraton on Sunday; but I will endeavor to do it as much as possible, and shall acquaint Huntington previous to my setting off. I am Yours sincerely,

W. STEWART.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

I forgot a very material affair which was, in the Connecticut line, to find out the late Captain Beaumont in the Surinam Trade. Let Richard find him out and ask him for a receipt and an account where B[arnabas] Deane and Riley may call for the Bills in Surinam he left behind. A vessel [is] now bound to Surinam. They want to send the Receipt to get the money from Surinam. The *Experiment* has taken a prize of 90 HHd Rum. Stupid Stephen left one of my shirts with another of Capt. Webb's in the room I lodged at at Mrs. Green's. Will you call on Campbell, a small tavern on your road about 20 miles from here, and ask delicately, if when I lay down today on the bed I did not drop a golden guinea. I am yours sincerely,

JOSEPH WEBB.

[wafer] HAVERSTRAW, Tuesday Evening [June, 1780.]

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, at General Greene's, Morristown.

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FROM TITUS HOSMER.

[HARTFORD, June, 1780.]

My Dear Sir:

I have no time to write. Col. Wadsworth will deliver you the Act of Assembly respecting your Battallion,

which I flatter myself will be agreeable to your wishes. I can only acknowledge the receipt of your two last letters. Thank you for their contents, and assure you of the inviolable affection with which I have the honor to be, Dear Sir, Your friend and humble servant,

TITUS HOSMER.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Morristown. Honored by Colo. Wadsworth.

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FROM MAJOR GENERAL HEATH.

G[eneral] H[earth] commends much C[olonel] W[ebb]'s good judgment in leaving the present relaxing climate of Jersey for a more northern latitude, and there are times and seasons when it may be as necessary for a man to pay a visit to his uncle as his aunt.

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

[HARTFORD, July 17, 1780.]

Dear Webb:

The Bearers, Joseph Poling, Gay Chapel, are recommended to me by Col. Hay, at Fish Kills. They left Canada and are seeking business. I beg the favour of you to procure them a passage to New Port, in the vessel you are going in.<sup>1</sup> I am, Dear Sir, Your very humble servant,

J. WADSWORTH.

Addressed: Col. Sam. B. Webb, Wethersfield.

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<sup>1</sup> Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 274.



FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

FLAT BUSH, 28th July, 1780.

Dear Sir:

I wrote you in May last by Mr. Shirtliff, in which I particularly requested you to send me a horse; since which I have received a letter from Mr. Jos. Webb, promising that my request should be immediately complied with, and am still impatiently awaiting his arrival.

Every idea of an exchange is now at an end, and we left to linger out an irksome captivity in want and misery. Sixteen months are past without the least attention from the public. To be thus neglected by the public, and by those I thought my friends, is too much, and how much longer they will continue their inattention I cant say; but this I can say, they are every day losing the esteem of their officers in captivity. Sir, if you will be so kind as to inform me if I am to have my horse or not, for I am unwilling to give you any farther trouble on the subject. Your bill of exchange is unsold as yet. I am, sir, your neglected Humble servant, EDWARD BULKLEY.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

Dear Col:

I wrote you on the 28th July by way of Jersey. I then intended not to have wrote you any more, untill I had received a line from you and a horse, which I have long and impatiently been waiting for.

A good and quick convaince has just presented, which I embrace once more, to request you will be so obliging as

to forward me a good horse by the first opportunity, which I am in great want of; more particularly as every idea of an exchange is now at an end, [and] we left to drag out the remains of a long and irksome captivity in indigency and want. Near sixteen months are past since the least attention paid us by the public, and how much longer they will continue their inattention I can't say; but to be thus neglected by the public and by our friends I think is rather Taught [tough].

If we could be indulged with paroles to go home, it might alleviate us some. Cannot such a thing be effected for us by sending in officers of similar rank?

I must conclude by adding I am, Dear Sir, your most Obedient and most Humble Servant,

EDWARD BULKLEY.

11 o'clock at night. FLAT BUSH, 1st August, 80.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

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FROM LEWIS MORRIS.<sup>1</sup>

VERPLANCK'S POINT, August 6th, 1780.

My dear Sir:

I received your favor of the 29th ultimo with the inclosed, which was forwarded by a horseman last evening, agreeable to the direction of your brother.

I am happy to hear of your safe return. I was under some apprehensions of your falling in with the British fleet, which would have been peculiarly unfortunate for you as a prisoner. Apropos, nothing would give me more

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<sup>1</sup> Son of Judge Lewis Morris, and now aide de camp to General Greene.

pleasure than to see you at the head of your Regiment this campaign; but how can it be effected? Point out a mode, and everything I can say or do in the matter shall be attempted. There is no general exchange taken place as yet, and a partial one has not been agreed to.

Your anxiety to hear from the dear girl <sup>1</sup> is very natural. I know it, because I have felt as you felt. I have done everything in my power to establish a more regular channel of conveyance from the *Branch*, and I think I have now effected it. Your letters will be forwarded from Mrs. Van Vecter's at my particular request, and the lady's lodged there. The expresses to and from Philadelphia shall be directed to call; this will be an easy and secure conveyance, and is the best plan I can adopt in my present circumstances, which I hope may meet with your approbation.

Mr. Temple, you inform me, has at last put his plan in execution.<sup>2</sup> I have long since deluded myself into a belief that it would never take place, and therefore I feel the greater mortification. Alas! she is gone, and I have to lament her departure. Believe me, my dear Webb, it is the severest trial I ever experienced. She was as dear to me as my life. Our passion, I flatter myself was mutual, and nothing but the cruel determination of her father could have prevented a union, which my happiness so much depended upon. Thus circumstanced, I know it is natural to suppose that it was in my power to have prevented her going. It was not unattempted I assure [you].

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<sup>1</sup> Eliza Bancker.

<sup>2</sup> This may have been John Temple, who was at this time in the United States and had visited Congress. His eldest daughter married Thomas Lindall Winthrop of Boston.

But such was her filial affection, and the positive objections of her father to her forming a connection in this country, that she was under the disagreeable necessity of sacrificing the more endearing considerations to a duty, which she conceived she owed her parents. God bless her, and as I am precluded from the expectation myself, may she be as happy in a connection with another, as I flatter myself she would have been with me.

As General Clinton has returned to New York, the plan in meditation against New York has subsided, and the army is now crossing the river to take post at Dobbs Ferry, where we shall establish a communication across the river, and make our approaches regularly, agreeable to the original plan. My respects at home and believe me.

[Signature torn off.]

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FROM JOHN HART.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir:

SAY BROOK, August 12th, 1780.

According to your request per my brother, I have this day wrote Col. Huntington respecting the note, and told him, I expected to have the full value of the money at the time of paying accounted to you, and requested him to write you upon the matter immediately. I expect to go from home soon, and should I not return in season to settle our accounts, have in that case requested Capt. Bull to settle them for me, and have furnished him with my paper, &c., as requisite. If you have no price for the cloathing,

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<sup>1</sup> He seems to have been a quartermaster sergeant in the 5th Battalion of Connecticut Militia, Wadsworth's Brigade. Appointed in July, 1776, he was discharged when the six months for which the battalion was raised expired.

let that part lye until you and I see one another again. I have nothing more to add but am, with esteem, your Very Humble Servant,

J. HART.

Addressed: Colo. Samuell B. Webb, Weathersfield.

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THOMAS MONCRIEFFE <sup>1</sup> TO MRS. BANCKER.

Dear Madam:

LONG ISLAND, 21st August, 1780.

I received your letter by Mrs. Dunscombe, and answered it soon after by Major Giles, since which I have obtained a permit for you to come into New York, which I shall inclose and leave with Mr. Mathews to forward, and be assured you will meet with no difficulty on this side.

I have already laid a foundation for you to act on in the collecting your money, and I have every reason to suppose you will settle your business to your mind. Mr. Mathews has assured me he will lend you all the assistance in his power. At all times you may command, Dear Madam, your truly respectful and most obedient servant,

T. MONCRIEFFE.

The above is a true and exact copy of Major Moncrieffe's letter to Mrs. Sarah Bancker. Certified by

SAMUEL B. WEBB.<sup>2</sup>

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FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

Dear Sam:

BOSTON, 31st August, 1780.

You would have heard from me before in answer to two or three letters received from you, but my confinement to

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<sup>1</sup> A captain in the 59th Regiment and major of brigade.

<sup>2</sup> Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 302.



my bed prevented. I am sorry you are prevented coming, upon the account you are. This cursed act being so often repeated leaves me no hopes of real amendment. I see the concerned mistrust the author, as her conduct while here, having got amongst the lower sort, has spread pretty far I fear. I wish you had been confined in New York when you brought her, for had she never been here this matter might very easily been covered; but as it is, what is it to you that you should deprive yourself any pleasure on that account. Your an honest dog, and so is Kitty; both of you and every other of the family will always be welcome at my home. We expect to see you after your return from the Jerseys, and don't make it late in the fall, for fear I shall be plagued with you again all winter, and your example should prove my ruin.

My love to Kitty. By this opportunity her gown will be forwarded, and I hope come safely. I've informed Col. Cary of this opportunity. He has wrote you by this days post. Adieu in haste, Yours affectionately,

J. BARRELL.

Addressed: Col. Sam. B. Webb, Wethersfield.

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY AND ELISHA HOPKINS.

MORRIS TOWN, 17th December, 1780.

Dear Col:

This will inform you of our being in the Land of Liberty, God be praised. We intend doing ourselves the honor of waiting on you at your New Quarters, but Capt. Hopkins is very unwell, and our Horses has been boarding at Flat Bush, two circumstances much against us, and will we hope [be] a sufficient appologe for our taking the Liberty

to request you to come here, as we are very anxious to see you, and shall wait the return of Hackley<sup>1</sup> the barrer of this. If you cannot see us, we wish to have your order and proceed home; the canteens &c. have got. Please to make our compliments to your Lady and Capt. Webb, if with you. We are, Dear Col., with every sentiment of esteem Your most obedient and most Humble servants,

EDWD. BULKLEY.

ELISHA HOPKINS.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, North Branch Rariton.

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

FISH KILL, 24th December, 1780.

Dear Sir:

This will inform you of our arrival here this day. Have paid Mr. Gautier for the canteens, and have his receipt for the money. Have found great difficulties in gitting our baggage forward. Have thought best to leave your canteens with Col. Scammell,<sup>2</sup> with orders to deliver them to Major Willis.<sup>3</sup> I have likewise delivered to Major Willis your orders concerning them. Please to present my best compliments to Mrs. W[ebb] and the other Ladies of your good family, and believe me to be, with every sentiment of the respect and esteem, your Affectionate

EDWARD BULKLEY.

Addressed: Colo. Samll. B. Webb, he is lately been exchanged, North Branch Rariton, New Jersey.

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<sup>1</sup> Azunah Hackley was a private and fifer in Webb's regiment.

<sup>2</sup> Alexander Scammell, of New Hampshire, now Adjutant General of the Continental army.

<sup>3</sup> John Palsgrave Wyllys, major in Webb's regiment.

## FROM ELISHA HOPKINS.

HARTFORD, January 24th, 1781.

Dear Colonel:

In sixteen days after my arival at this place I received Orders from Maj Wyllys to join at or before the first day of February. You, my dear Colonel, are not ignorant of the unhappy surcumstance of my parent and the situation in which my affairs were thrown by the consequences. Now I leave you, My Dear Col., to judge whether it's in my power to join by the first of February, or even the first of March, setting aside my procuring necessarys for the campaign, and your expectations of my not joining untill sometime in the spring. I have wrote Maj. Wyllys very particular, and am convinced he will see the impossibility of my joining by the time ordered. No young man wishes to serve in the army more than myself, but if I must join immediately my only alternative is this: Resign or be ruined. The former is Death, the latter distruction. Adieu, My Dear Colonel, and believe me to be your most Obedient most Humble servant,

E. HOPKINS.

P. S. Lockwood has gave me from under his hand that whatever was said respecting his calling me a Coward was false.

Addressed to Webb, "Connecticut Line, honored by Major Bull."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Epaphras Bull, Major of the 1st Continental Dragoons, commanded by Col. Stephen Moylan. He died in 1781, in Virginia, just previous to the investment of Yorktown.

FROM SAMUEL H. PARSONS.

Sir:

You will please to send such Non Com[missioned] Officers in pursuit of your Deserters as you find necessary and think prudent. Your humble servant,

S. H. PARSONS.

[HIGHLANDS], 19th February, 81.

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FROM ASHBEL RILEY.

WETHERSFIELD, February 26th, 1781.

Dear Sir:

By your man Richard I imbrace the opportunity to congratulate you on being exchanged — from the Enemy — but find you are not willing to be free, but have made yourself a prisoner in a much happier prison than any in New York. Sir, I am in my turn a prisoner to Capt. Samuell Thompson, who commands the *America*, a British 64-Gunship. A very worthy gentleman commands her. He used me with all the compl[a]isance possable for a prisoner. I am now on parole, and when I shall be sent for God only knows, but hope not soon. Sir, I got home to Wethersfield the 18th of December, and the 22nd Mrs. Riley was delivered of a fine Daughter, and I hope soon to hear of your being in the same way. In haste, Sir, with Mrs. Riley's and my best compliments to Col. Webb and his lady, I remain yours,

ASHBEL RILEY.

Addressed to Webb "att Camp, per favor of R. Bacon."

FROM MOSES HAZEN.<sup>1</sup>

FISHKILL, March 2d, 1781.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed you have a letter which I was desired to forward. I beg to know if Genl. Parsons is returned; if not, when he is expected. I find it will not be in my power to set out for Philadelphia as soon as I proposed. I am,  
Dear Sir, Yours most sincerely,

MOSES HAZEN.

## FROM JOHN COCHRAN.

NEW WINDSOR, March 4th, 1781.

Dear Sir:

I was favored with yours of the 28th ultimo this day; also another of a former date, which I did not answer because of no opportunity. The machine I ordered to be sent me with all possible dispatch, and I hope to receive it soon.

I have not wrote to the Governor because I have expected to set out for that place for the 10 days last past, and shall get under way for it tomorrow morning, and you may depend every power of mine shall be exerted to obtain the desire of Mrs. Bancker.

I am sorry for her situation, and shall omit no opportunity of rendering her my best services.<sup>2</sup> Take care of your-

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<sup>1</sup> One of the officers of the British army who joined the patriotic side.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Cochran attended Mrs. Webb until it became necessary to remove her to Connecticut. He was Director General of Military Hospitals, and a native of Pennsylvania. Settled for a time in Albany, he married Gertrude, a sister of General Schuyler.



self and give my love to Mrs. Webb, my favorite, Mrs. Bancker and family, and believe me, Dear Sir, Yours most sincerely,

JOHN COCHRAN.

Addressed to Webb "North Branch to be left at Mr. Van Veghten, Rariton."

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FROM PETER ROBERTSON.

PRESTON, March 17th, 1781.

Dear Col:

I have seen Thos. Hallet,<sup>1</sup> soldier, that you sent home in search of one Fanning,<sup>2</sup> which duty he has performed with great spirit and allacrity, and as Hallet is going on with a number of Recruits shall send Fanning on under his care.

Sir, I have never had any sergeant, drum or fifer; should be glad if the Col. would send me a smart active Sergeant, also a drummer and fifer, as they would be of great service to me in collecting the Recruits, also in taking out Deserters.

Should be very glad to receive the direction, if [you] has any to send, concerning the Recruiting Business.

I am, sir, your most obedient Humble servant,

PETER ROBERTSON, *Lieut.*

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<sup>1</sup> Of Preston, transferred to Webb's regiment in May, 1780, and enlisted "for the war."

<sup>2</sup> Two of the name were in Webb's regiment. David Fanning of Groton, in Sherburne's regiment, was discharged early in 1780. The second was Elisha Fanning, also of Groton, and also in Sherburne's regiment, but was transferred to Webb's and served until February, 1781, when he received his discharge. The latter is doubtless intended.

N. B. Hallet has been petitioning me for to write you in his behalf for you to let him return home under the sanction of his being my waiter. If this can be done without injuring the service should be glad.

P. R. *Lt.*

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FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, 19th March, 1781.

Dear Brother:

Your Corporal's return from his *Furlough* gives me opportunity to answer your favors received by him and Col. Greateon.<sup>1</sup> By the latter I find you was in good spirits, tho' illy provided with necessaries. If you was reduced to the situation you mention upon other occasions, viz. *kneeling*, it might be *better* for your soul, and I'm positive if you could exchange your *Hot N. Eng.* for *Satisfaction* Wine it would be abundantly *so* for your body. Try the former yourself and when you put it in my power I will the latter as far as a bottle will go; for there is one lain by the back of the shelf for the reception of your better self. Methinks I see Hetty '*licking her chops*,' for the Jade loves Satisfaction. But by this time I conclude you are better pleased than to be here, even if many bottles of the same liquor was at command. One single draught of that self same something which I call the hight of friendship with the object dearly beloved and justly esteemed, is as far superior to all the pleasures of Sense, as Heaven with its blessings is to Earth with its two thousand anxieties. And you informed me in your last that you are going to the

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<sup>1</sup> John Greateon, colonel of the 3d Massachusetts Regiment, Continental line.

Jersies where, if *Fame* says true, you have ample room for those enjoyments which is the alone [only] sweetner of life. Give my love to the dear Object, and tell her I hope by and by to have the pleasure of being admitted in the friendly way to kiss her once at least. I observe your proposal with respect to supplying you officers. I wish it was in my power to do it, but for myself I am entirely out of goods, having sent all mine to Merrils at Hartford. Nor are any of the gentlemen you mention (nor some others that I've applyd to) better prepared, so that I think no dependance can be had this way. Your soldiers' notes no doubt are good, unless the Devil gets in the government, and then they can reduce them as they please; not *righteously* but in an arbitrary way, in which many things are now done that will by and by make the actors blush, at least, *that is, if they are not past it*. Martha is Martha still, and having said this, tis appology sufficient for her not writing our new Sister. She threatens it day by day, but I've known people older than she that have resolved and re-resolved but died the same. Our love to Kitty. We expect her in the spring, but how she is to get here we know not; but let women alone for inventions. I had as many seeds and roots as cost me 16 Guineas at Statia, sent there from Amsterdam to be forwarded; but the *Tarnel* Britons have got them. I wish, therefore, if you have any seeds of any sort, *I mean garden*, that you would send me some of each for use and ornament; but if you have none, I beg you will not send me any.

I hope in God the present Campaign will end the war and that you return unhurt (or at least only wounded in a *finger* or so) with Laurels as many as you can stagger under; and may your Betsy and 40 Brats long enjoy in peace the

well earned honors of warfare is the wish of, Dear Sam,  
Your friend and Brother,

J. BARRELL.

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FROM JOHN HARTE.

HARTFORD, March 28th, 1781.

Dear Sir:

I would be glad to be informed whether you expect to be at home any time this spring or in the first of the summer. If so, should wish to see you to settle our accounts, as I am very desirous to do it as soon as possible. If you should not be at home in Connecticut, I must make a journey down to the Regiment where 'tis likely you may be found in May or June. If you should be at home I wish you to bring with you the papers relating to our affairs; but if not, to desire your Brother Joseph Webb to furnish me with them if at Wethersfield, in case they may be wanted. It is impossible to take out the balance of the account without transferring the account of money charged to me by mistake.

Please to make my compliments to the gentlemen of the Regiment, and believe me with great esteem your friend and obedient servant,

JOHN HARTE.

N. B. Mr. Burr has the Receipts on the back of the old Inlistments in his keeping.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> On the outside: "To be left at Mr. Vanvacters, Rariton Bridge, New Jersey." It is endorsed as answered May 27, 1781.

FROM MANNING MERRILL.

WETHERSFIELD, March 28th, 1781.

Dear Sir:

The inclosed letter for your good sister I had the honor to receive from Mrs. Barrell, in Boston, ten days past, who I left in great spirits. She wishes sincerely to have your sister Hetty come and spend the summer in Boston for several very urgent reasons. Mr. Barrell would be made exceedingly happy by your company, as he very rarely introduces a bottle of *Old Satisfaction* without mentioning your name. I intended to have had the pleasure of delivering the inclosed, personally, but business will prevent at this time.

I have just made a purchase of a very excellent cask of Madeira Wine, and thank God I have a few Hds. of very old spirits, which if you can propose a method of safe conveyance now, or a few weeks hence, I shall be able to supply you. And as I am now in your debt to a small amount, be kind enough to command me. Though unknown to your Lady, please to assure her I have set her down as one of the finest women in the Universe, as I am well assured the person *She has* is deserving of such a carактер. My best compliments to your sister. Inform *her* that Mr. and Mrs. Barrell sincerely wish her company the coming season.

Your Br[other] Jack is playing the dirty game of all *fours* in company with S. Chester, and they are very talkative. Jack *swears* and Chester *cusses*. I bid you adieu with sincerity. I am your friend,

M. MERRILL.

Addressed: To Colo. Saml B. Webb, North Branch Rariton, New Jersey. Per favor of Capt. Bulkly. To be left at Mr. Vanvacters, Rariton bridge.



FROM ISRAEL STRONG.<sup>1</sup>

EAST WINDSOR, April 29th, 1781.

Dear Sir:

This is the third time that I have Wrot to you to aquant you with the resones of my not joining the Regiment. But was informed by Maj. Wyllys last week that my letters never arrived at the Regiment, for which reson I writ once more to aquant you that it is not in my power to join aney mor, for which resons I would be much oblige to your honnor to seliset me a discharge. I could wish to come myself but I have not money a nuf in the world to bare my expences to the Regt., nether is it in my power to get it. Sir, your compliance with this request will gratley oblige your most obdt humble servt.,

ISRAEL STRONG.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'll B. Webb, 3rd Connecticut Regt, or the officer comd.

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FROM RALPH POMEROY.<sup>2</sup>

HARTFORD, 23d May, 1781.

Dear Sir:

I have taken unwearied pains to procure waggon horses in vain. Gov. Trumbull wishes to have it done. I can-

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<sup>1</sup> He was a sergeant in the 2d Regiment Connecticut Line, commanded by Col. Charles Webb, and in July, 1780, received a lieutenant's commission. Paid, probably, in soldiers' notes, he experienced the common difficulty of obtaining more than a part of the face value.

<sup>2</sup> In 1777 he was paymaster of the 3d Regiment, Connecticut line, and was retired by consolidations in 1781, having a lieutenant's commission. He then entered the Quartermaster's Department of the Connecticut State troops.

not do it without making use of force or bargaining for money, either of which is out of my power.

You will please to acknowledge the [receipt] of the waggon, harness, &c. I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

RALPH POMEROY,  
*Dep. Quar. Master.*

Addressed: Col. Saml. B. Webb, Weathersfield.

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FROM SAMUEL LOUDON.

FISHKILL, 28th May, 1781.

Sir:

The Post arrived here from Morristown last night, but had no letters for you. I will inquire at the Post whether he saw letters for you in Morristown; but tis probable that letters for you that may have come to that office are sent to Rarritan. I am, Sir, Your obdt Servt.,

SAMUEL LOUDON.

Addressed: Col. Sam'l B. Webb, Hutts.

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FROM JOHN KEESE.

FISHKILL, 30th May, 1781.

Dear Sir:

I received your favor of yesterday by Sergt. Nicholson. I have done all I could on the occasion, which was to write a very urgent request to the justices to give every assistance with teams and forage that Richard Bacon <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A private in Webb's regiment and captured with his commander in December, 1777. He came from Wethersfield.

should apply for. I have requested them to forward it here with all possible dispatch, and promised to pay for the transportation out of the first money that may be received.

Colonel Hughes <sup>1</sup> is gone to Albany. I cannot therefore give a positive order on Major Campbell <sup>2</sup> or Keese, who is at King's Ferry, for a cart or waggon for the purpose you mention. I am very certain that either of them will furnish on your application if in their power.

I am, dear sir, with much respect Your very obedient servant,

JOHN KEESE,  
*D. Q. M.*

Addressed: Colonel Sam'l B. Webb, Highlands.

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FROM TEUNIS BOGERT.

CONT[INENTAL] VILLAGE, 31 May, 1781.

Sir:

I received yours of this date this moment in the absence of Major Campbell whom I hourly expect. We have one two-horse wagon at this port, which is almost constantly employed in hauling provisions for troops in this vicinity, which I almost think Major Campbell will be able to spare from that service by the time you will want it. It is now much out of repair having broke down on the road with provisions between this and New Hampshire Hutts, and will be in order as soon as the carpenters can do it, which will be in two or three days. If you will be so kind and send your lad down Saturday forenoon, Major Camp-

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<sup>1</sup> Hugh Hughes, of New York, Assistant Quartermaster General.

<sup>2</sup> Donald Campbell, of New York, Deputy Quartermaster General.

bell will then give a positive answer. In whose behalf I am your most humble servant,

THEUNIS BOGERT.

Addressed: Colonel Sam'l B. Webb, Connecticut Hutts.

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FROM JOHN DURKEE.<sup>1</sup>

CAMP, June 1st, 1781.

Dear Colo:

As it belongs to your Regiment to furnish a Capt. (for command with Col. Scammell), Capt. Parsons has returned, and your Regiment must relieve him. I am, Dear Col., Your most obedient Humble Servant,

JOHN DURKEE.

Addressed: Colo. Webb. Present.

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

CONNECTICUT CAMP, 7th June, 1781.

Dear Colonel:

The inclosed is a letter received last evening by Sergeant Evens,<sup>2</sup> accompanied with two more from Lieut. Strong,<sup>3</sup> requesting your Honor, (as he stiles you) to send on his discharge as his situation is such he cannot come after it. Am sorry for the loss of the srub [shrub]. Immediately on hearing the loss of it I sent of half a bottle with hopes it might meet you at the Village, but was too late.

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<sup>1</sup> Colonel of the 4th Regiment, Connecticut line.

<sup>2</sup> Abiathar Evans, of Hartford, and in Capt. David Parsons's company.

<sup>3</sup> Israel Strong. See p. 157, *supra*.

General Parsons arrived at his Hutt last evening, but as yet have not seen him.

Please to present my love to the ladies of your family, and believe to be with every sentiment of Esteem, Dear Col., your Most obedient servant,

EDWARD BULKLEY.

N. B. I send on a bottle of srub by Chadwick.<sup>1</sup>

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, North Branch Rariton, New Jersey. Per Chadwick.

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### COURT MARTIAL.

At a Regimental Court Martial, held in Camp <sup>2</sup> this 27th day of June, 1781, by Order of Colo Webb.

Capt. [Otho Holland] WILLIAMS, *Presdt.*; Capt. [Timothy] ALLYN Lieut. [Daniel] BRADLEY, *Members*, was try'd Sergt. Hezekiah Betts of the 8th Company, Confin'd for Neglect of Duty.

To the above Charge the Prisoner pleads not Guilty.

Lieut. [John] Meig's <sup>3</sup> being sworn, informs the Court that the Prisoner has for some time past done the Duty of Orderly Sergt. to the 8th Company; that he has frequently bro't his men for Duty into the Parade, with dirty Arms, deficient in Cartridges, and Slovenly in their dress, contrary to the directions he (the Witness) has frequently given him.

Capt. Allyn, a member of the Court informs, that the

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<sup>1</sup> Two of the name, William and James, were in Webb's regiment, but neither was attached to Bulkley's company.

<sup>2</sup> Peekskill.

<sup>3</sup> Adjutant of the regiment.



Prisoner has generally been negligent in his duty, that he has frequently directed him to report those men in the Company who were negligent in attention to their Arms dress, &c., when going on Duty. that the Prisoner never did report any, altho' the adjt. has frequently found fault with the appearance of the men.

The Prisoner in his Defence says that he has ever been as attentive to his Duty as any Sergt. in the Regt., but that the Situation of the Company has been such as rendered it impossible for them to make a decent appearance. At the request of the Prisoner Lt. [Isaac] Keeler, being Sworn, informs the Court, that the Prisoner did the Duty of Orderly Sergt. in the 2d Regt. in the Company in which the Witness was for two or three months, and that he never observ'd any neglect or inattention in the Prisoner, but ever found him a good and faithful Sergt.

The Court having Considered the Evidence and the Defence of the Prisoner are of Opinion, that the Prisoner is Guilty and do Sentence him to be Reduced to the Ranks.

O. H. WILLIAMS. *Presdt.*

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

HARTFORD, July 3, 1781.

Dear Webb:

I inclose a memorial in your name for Mrs. Bancker to go into New York inclosed in the permission.<sup>1</sup> You will put in her Christian name, and send it to me, that it

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<sup>1</sup> Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 347.

may be entered in the records of Connecticut (?). I am,  
Dear Webb, Yours sincerely,

J. WADSWORTH.

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb, Con'l Army, Phillipsburg.

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### COURT MARTIAL.

The Regimental Court Martial appointed by an order of the 11th Inst., of which Capt. [Samuel William] Williams is President, met agreeable to adjournment this 13th day of July, and proceeded to the Tryal of Michael Minthorn, soldier in the 4th Company,<sup>1</sup> confined for altering a pass and attempting to desert. The prisoner pleads guilty of altering the pass, but not of attempting to desert, and says that one Kellogg, an acquaintance of his, advised him to alter the pass and go home; in consequence of which he did it, but soon altered his mind, and was determined to return immediately to the Regiment when he was taken up.

After due consideration the Court are of opinion that the Prisoner is guilty of the charges alledged against him, and do sentence him to receive 50 lashes upon his naked back.

S. W. WILLIAMS, *Capt. and Presdt.*

[PHILLIPSBURGH.]

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<sup>1</sup> Capt. Joseph Walker, of Stratford.

## COURT MARTIAL.

CAMP NEAR DOBBS'S FERRY, 7th August, 1781.

Agreeable to Regimental Orders a Court sat this day for the Tryal of such Prisoners as shall be brought before them.

Capt. [Elisha] Hopkins *President*

Lieut [Isaac] Keeler, Ensn. [Aaron] St. John, *Members.*

The Court proceeded to the tryal of William Hughes of the 3d Company,<sup>1</sup> charged with fighting and making a disturbance in Camp at unseasonable hours. The Prisoner pleads not guilty. The evidences, Corporal [Thomas] Stone<sup>2</sup> and John Roberts,<sup>3</sup> being sworn say that the Prisoner was laying on the ground as they imagined asleep, and that they saw Jesse Mathews<sup>4</sup> of the 5th Regiment go towards him with an effigy, and that some one of the Company ordered the effigy to pay obedience to the Prisoner, and that Matthews in turning round with the effigy struck him across the face, upon which he immediately arose and struck Matthews twice.

Jacob Gillet a soldier in the 8th Company being charged with sleeping on his post, the Prisoner pleads guilty. But in his own vindication says that the night preceeding he was deprived of his sleep by a sore on his foot, and the night preceeding that he was on Picquet.

The Court are of the oppinion that Hughes is guilty of disturbance in Quarters, and do sentence him to be under

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<sup>1</sup> Capt. Stephen Betts, of Norwalk.

<sup>2</sup> Of Hopkins' own company.

<sup>3</sup> Of Capt. Samuel Comstock's company, in the 5th Regiment, Lieut. Col. Isaac Sherman.

<sup>4</sup> Of Capt. Nehemiah Rice's company, 5th Regiment.

the drill eight hours in twenty-four for three days when of duty. And that Gillet receive fifty lashes on his naked back.

E. HOPKINS, *President*.

FROM DAVID PARSONS.<sup>1</sup>

Sir:

WESTPOINT, 12th Aug., 1781.

I am relieved at Fishkill, and [am] now at the Point. Am at present much out of health. Lieut. Parsons<sup>2</sup> informed me he sent twenty-six hard dollars by one Ebenezer Burbank<sup>3</sup> for me. I have some time since given direction that the money should be left with you. If you should have it, or know of any that hath it, would oblige me to have it sent by Sergt. Spencer.<sup>4</sup> With a trembling hand I subscribe myself Your humble servant,

D. PARSONS.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'll B. Webb.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, August 18th, 1781.

My Dear Brother:

I have just got my Carpenters to work on my Frame, and you will readily allow I am busy enough. Indeed I know not which way to turn, and I wish to get through

<sup>1</sup> Of Enfield, a captain in Webb's regiment. He died November 15, 1781.

<sup>2</sup> Jabez Parsons, in the same regiment until he resigned, May 4, 1781. He was in David Parsons' company.

<sup>3</sup> Burbank had served under Capt. Simeon Sheldon at Guilford and New Haven in July, 1779.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Spencer, in Capt. Nehemiah Rice's company, 5th Regiment, Connecticut line, Lieut. Col. Isaac Sherman.

with my multiplicity of business. I trust the Barn once finished will be of much consequence to me, and I shall then have done with building, which at best is very troublesome. Your sister W[ebb] is far from being well. She desires to be remembered. She and indeed all of us are quite anxious to hear of the recovery of poor Betsy, and we much wish for our sake and Sally's more particular that Hetty was here. Indeed in ten days Sally will be with us. Barrel owns  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the valuable Prize brought into New London by Dudley Saltonstall.<sup>1</sup> Cant you or Friend Jerry<sup>2</sup> contrive to get Hetty to camp. I'll come or send for her.

Richard uses me ill about the saddle, bridle, straps, halters, etc. etc. he took from here. I have wrote you several times, but cant hear a word. I enclose you the last New London papers, which keep safe with your baggage to return, as it breaks my sett. I am, Dear brother, yours,  
[No signature.]

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, American Camp. Per Capt. Watson.

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FROM EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

22 Aug., 1781.

Dear Sir:

I have directed Hallet to the Regiment for several articles. Among the other people to call on have directed him to call on you, and exchange three spoons which he

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<sup>1</sup> In command of the *Minerva*, a Connecticut brigantine, carrying sixteen guns, and a crew of one hundred and twenty men. Thomas Mumford and John Chevenard were interested with him.

<sup>2</sup> Wadsworth.



got some time since, and to get a pair of your Horn Tumblers, which I supposed you would lend me.

The Fifer you promised to me has not yet arrived. Must beg you will send him this day, as Col. Scammell has directed me to call on you for that purpose.

As yet not a single word has transpired by which we may conjecture where we are going; but should we march by the N[orth] Branch, may I presume to say you send your Love. Adieu. EBEN. HUNTINGTON.

I wish you to send me two of my best camp chairs, or two of your short ones.

Addressed: Colonel Webb.

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

CAMP AT PEEKSKILL, 28th August, 1781.

Dear Colo:

The inclosed I received last evening by Kellogg,<sup>1</sup> and agreeable to your directions have this morning sent off [James] Chadwick, by whom I have sent Briton, both of which hope will get safe to hand. Six recruits have joined since your departure from this. Belding<sup>2</sup> through a mistake carried off Mr. [John] Megg's surcingle, which you will please to send back by Chadwick. Nothing of consequence has happened since you left this, except the arrival of a beautiful new painted waggon, drawn by four Elligant Dapple Grays, and escorted by a Sub. and 27 of Jonas chosen Band. (Real Dandy is now plenty.)

I hope you may find Mrs. Webb perfectly from her

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen Kellogg, of Elisha Hopkins' company.

<sup>2</sup> Abraham Belding, of Captain Bulkley's company.

late Illness. My best wishes attend you and the Ladies of your Cottage, to whom I beg you to present my most respectful compliments.

I am, dear Col., with sentiments of regard and esteem  
your most Obedient Servant, EDWARD BULKLEY.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, North Branch Rariton, New Jersey. By Chadwick, Soldier 3d Connt. Regt.

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

CAMP, PEEKSKILL HEIGHTS, 24th September, 1781.

The inclosed letters I received three days since, and should have been happy in forwarding them sooner had it been in my power. General Huntington informed me this day that you had obtained indulgence to transport your family by way of New York to Connecticut. I congratulate you on this happy event. I could wish myself with you to assist your amiable family through such a Tower, (but this cannot be).

I am informed by Mr. Dickinson that he left your friends at Wethersfield well four days since. Mr. and Mrs. Barrell was anxiously waiting the arrival of your family at that place. The West Point detachment joined two days since. We are anxiously waiting a confirmation of the intelligence received yesterday from New York. The British Fleet are well drubbed.

Williams, Riley, Meigs, and Dr. Rose, have obtained leave of absence and are gone home; Capt. [Timothy] Allen and [Timothy] Taylor on command. Judge our situation. Altho I wish you hear, yet cannot expect you to come in your present distressed circumstances. We do everything in our power.

Please to present my respectfull compliments to your lady and family. You will please to inform me by the first opportunity if you proceed to Connecticut by water. I am, Dear Col, your Most obedient servant,

E. B.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, North Rariton Branch, New Jersey. To the care of Mr. Vanvacters, Rariton Bridge.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

[WETHERSFIELD, 13 November, 1781.]<sup>1</sup>

My Dear Brother:

We are happy to hear you are so far on your way here. Tell Betsy, Hetty and all, we shall receive you all with open arms. I wou'd come down to the Vessel and contrive the best way to get you here, but unfortunately I am obliged to be at Hartford this morning. I think a pretty letter wou'd be best for Betsy, kind friends and Docr. Jepson,<sup>2</sup> Orion Air, &c., &c., I hope I will raise her soon. The Carriage shall be ready and a litter; both the latter I think most of. As for the house — I think Barny<sup>3</sup> will do the best He can to accommodate you. He's behaved well. I wish it had been possible for you to have Come up yourself instead of Richd. Barny is not agoing to Hartford untill Spring, but yet perhaps you may all live comfortably together. But let this not trouble you. Possession is much. Say but little and Barny will do well

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<sup>1</sup> Endorsed as "received on board sloop at Middle[town]."

<sup>2</sup> Dr. William Jepson, of Hartford, who was associated with Dr. Sylvester Gardiner of Boston in the sale of drugs.

<sup>3</sup> Barnabas Deane, whose house Webb wished to occupy.

I trust. I have sent you 23 dollars. Its the best I cou'd do. Give my love to all the Circle, and believe me Sincerely, Your Aff. Friend and Brother,

JOS. WEBB.

If the Wind holds N. W., by all means I advise the litter.

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FROM WILLIAM CONSTABLE.

PHILADELPHIA, 13th November, 1781.

Dear Sam:

I wrote you the 4th in answer to yours of the 2d instant, since which several arrivals from the Havana by whom I have J. S[eagrove]'s letters of the 10th, 12th and 15th ultimo. In these he marks us flour best comn., 22 @ 24 Dls., rising; Beef and Pork, 40 Dls; Bees Wax, 1 Dlr., and naval stores in great demand. He advises that freights can be procured for good vessels from that port to Cadiz or Amsterdam at 18 Dls per box for sugars. Hogs lard would also answer well at their Mkt. I sincerely hope Mrs. Webb will receive benefit by her trip by sea. Remember me to your Brother. I am yours,

WM. CONSTABLE.

Price current

Rum . . . . .	9/
Sugars Havana . . . . .	8 @ 10d
Muscad . . . . .	65/ @ 75/
Barr Iron . . . . .	33 £
B: Tea . . . . .	6/
Russia Duck . . . . .	8 £
Coffee . . . . .	1/4
Salt . . . . .	17/6
Bills on France . . . . .	5/6 @ 9d p 5 [livres]
Dry Goods . . . . .	2/6 @ 3/ p livres

## FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

PEEKSKILL, 14th November, 1781.

Dear Colonel:

I hope this may find you and Family safe arrived at Wethersfield, and in much better health than when I last heard from you. Capt. Riley will do me the honor to deliver this, and will be able to inform you any particulars respecting your Regiment. Have long wished for you to join (for many reasons) but in a particular manner at this time, as cloaths are expected to be delivered in a short time to cloth the army and are to be made up under the particular directions of Commanding Officers of Regiments. If you cannot be present I wish you to communicate your wish and directions concerning them. Your waggon and baggage have sent up to the Connecticut Hutts, and is under the care of Capt. Williams, who is superintending the party that are repairing them. We are impatiently waiting to git into *W[inter] Quarters*, and as soon as that is accomplished shall endeavor to git indulgence to return home, which hope you will not object to. Your bay mare is just come in, and not in very good order either. Your directions may be necessary concerning her; but should I not receive them before I set out for W[ethersfiel]d shall ride her, as I have sold myne. Proper care shall be taken of her. Capt. P.<sup>1</sup> is to retire as those officers did in '80, and will *Quit* in a short time.

You will please to present my most respectfull compliments to your Lady and Family.

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<sup>1</sup> David Parsons (?). See p. 165, *supra*.



I have the honor to be with sentiments of esteem, Dear Col., your affectionate Friend,

EDWARD BULKLEY.

Addressed: Colonel Sam'l B. Webb, Wethersfield. Hon'd by Capt. Riley.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

RIDGFIELD, 28th November, 1781.

My Unfortunate and Worthy Brother:

I am at a loss to express the sorrow I feel for your loss; a greater I am sure you can never experience.<sup>1</sup> Then my amiable friend is gone to her Blessed Saviour. I think she is very happy, for a person of her sweet and noble disposition cannot fail of being happy in the other state, tho' your loss, my Valuable Br[other], is not, nor can it be, made up. I feel more than I can express for the loss. May the Great Ruler of the Universe through the merits of our Blessed Saviour pardon my Sweet Sister and receive her parted Soul into his Blessed abode, and help you and her dear Mama bear up under the severe stroke; also our mutual friend Aunt Polly. Tell them, my Friend, that one who ever esteemed them feels more for them than he can express, and leaves it to their generosity to judge what that must be. Little did I think when I left you that that was the last time I should see my sweet sister. But why should I add to your distress. You will judge, my Friend, what was my feelings when I was informed of our loss; nothing in life could have hurt me more.

I do not feel, my Br[other], in a mood to wright; rather

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Webb died November 18, 1781.

to go and shut myself up in a closet, and there to shed tears for my Dear Friend, That I have done in showers. I wish for an opportunity to go to her home and pay my last respects. May God bless you, my Friend, Mrs. Bancker, and Aunt Polly, who I shall ever esteem more on the account of our loss. My Love to all, I am yours affectionately,

JOHN WEBB.

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FROM EDWARD BULKLEY.

CONNECTICUT HUTTS, 1st Dec. 1781.

Yours of the 27th of November was handed me last evening by Belding. It confirms the Maloncholly account I heard some few days past. My situation has been similar to yours, O my greatly afflicted friend. I feel for you and can pity you in your distress situation most sincerely; but alas, my friend, sympathy or pity from earthly friends will not effectually alleviate the great anxiety you must feel on this mournful occasion. Therefore let me recommend you to our Heavenly Father, who is abundantly able and withholdeth not from a contrite heart. His grace is sufficient to support and carry you through the severest trials. On him alone then let us depend for assistance, that when our nearest and dearest friends are taken from us we may have a friend in Heaven from whom only true satisfaction can be found. I must [end], for necessity bids me quit this subject and proceed to business. Your letters I sent of early this morning by Sergt. Booth.<sup>1</sup> The other lads you mention are not equal to so long a journey.

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<sup>1</sup> Walter Booth, of Capt. Samuel W. Williams' company.

Previous to our move to Winter Quarters the General ordered all public horses to be returned into the Quarter Master General. Yours was among the number, we not having one straw of forage to keep them on. Col. [Isaac] Sherman has been so very polite as to let me have his horses, but they are forty miles from this. Have this day sent Sergt. Bunce<sup>1</sup> after them. Hope to be able to git the waggon under way by Tuesday next, if nothing extrodonary happens. Sergeant Bunce with a proper guard will attend your baggage home. Hazard I think may answer for you this winter. He will make one of the guard. Have received of the paymaster eighteen pounds twelve shillings, which is all that he done for you on the month of February.

[Abraham] Belding sets off for Wethersfield tomorrow morning. By him I send you thirty-five dollars and eighteen crowns; the remaining seven dollars shall give Sergeant Bunce for expenses, as public forage is not to be obtained. Those of the guard I wish not to have furloughs for a longer term than 20 days; more than 20 days will violate General Orders. I must postpone saying anything on Regimental matters untill a more leisure moment, or till I have the pleasure of seeing you at Wethersfield.

Please to remember me affectionately to your distrest and mourning friends and believe me to be with great regard and esteem your affectionate Friend and most obedient servant,

[*No signature.*]

N. B. Chapen has had only one pair of shoes.

Addressed: Col. Sam'l B. Webb, Wethersfield.

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<sup>1</sup> Jared Bunce, of the same company.

## FROM JOHN DUYCKINCK.

NORTH BRANCH, December 4th, 1781.

Dear Sir:

I received your favour of the 27th November with the Mallancoly nuse of the loss of your and our worthey friend, Eliza, a girl who I esteemed and loved as one of my own. O, my Dear Sir, the loss of our dear friend to me, Mrs. Duyckinck, family, and little ones, is scancearly lamented. O, it gives us comfort and consolation that we have reason to hope and believe that she is now in Heavin, joining with Blessed Spirits in Hallalujahes to Our God. Your troubles, your difficulties, anccuaries [anxieties?] of mind for our dear Betsey's recovery, has been greate. But My Dear friend, when we Consider that our Dear Eliza is only taken home to her Father's House from the Eivels to come; that all our troubles in this wourld will soon have an end; that our Disopointments and Misfortunes here serve only to inform us that here we have no continuing city, and that we ought to endeavour to pripare for a nother world to which in a short time we will be caled; this consideration ought to enable us to sit down contented under the Chastesing hand of Provedence, and cherfully say, Good is the Will of the Lord.

I am sensible that my dear Sisters have lost all they wished for in life. But I scancerely hope they will bear with fortutude; be a sured I will let your friends no the loss of our Dear friend. We are extremely sorrey to find Miss Webb has not recovered her helth. As soon as the season will admit of it, intend to pay you a visit; in the mean time hope to here from you as often as opportunity serves, as you may expect from us. My family is in good



helth and joins me in our scancear love to you, Miss Webb, Mrs. J. Bancker, and Polley, who intend righting to [you] soon, and believe me, Dear Sir, to be your friend and Humbel Servant,

JOHN DUYCKINCK.<sup>1</sup>

P. S. Pleas make my compliments to your Brother.

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JOHN DUYCKINCK TO SARAH BANCKER.

NORTH BRANCH, December 4, 1781.

Dear Sister:

By Capt. Webb's of the 27th November we had the Mallencoly nuse of the loss of our Dear Betsey, a loss Erapareable to you, me, and my little family. I am truly sensible of your distressed situation, and the difficulties you have incountered with sense I saw you. But my dear Sister it was all done for the best. O, when we have reason to hope and believe that she is now in Heavin, this consideration ought to enable us to sit contented under the chastening hand of Provedence, and Cherefully say that good is the Will of God. My Dear Sister, the loss is greate, but I scancearly wish and pray that you beare it with fortitude. I wish I was with you to partake in your troubles. God bless you. I wish you well and hope to hear from you every opportunity, as you may expect from us. I entend paying you a visit as soon as the season will admit of it. James and Mos. Van Kirk is well. My

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<sup>1</sup> The earliest generations of this family in America are given in *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, XXIII, 33.



family in good helth joins me in love to you, Mr. J. Webb, Sister Polley. I am your Brother and H. Svt.,

JNO. DUYCKINCK.

P. S. We hare last Sunday of our friends sense you left us. Mr. Samuel Conamon, Mr. Van Vactor, and Miss Polly Hude.

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FROM JOHN PALSGRAVE WYLLYS.

HIGHLANDS, 10th December, 1781.

Dear Colo:

The day before yesterday I arrived with the Troops at this post, sufficiently fatigued with our march, but all pleased with what was once thought so execrable, a sight of the Highlands. The news of your misfortune first reached me at Philadelphia, and was confirmed at Mr. Lott's; barely to say that I condole with you, does not do justice to my feelings of friendship. What a man of your sensibility must feel on such an occasion I think I can in some degree judge. Indeed, my dear Colonel, I feel *with* you.

Capt. Williams doubtless gives you the situation of the Regiment. I am sorry it is necessary for you to be troubled with such affairs now. A Field Officer *must* be with the Regiment this winter. I shall tarry some time longer than I otherwise should, had Col. Huntington been present at my arrival; (but I shall not remain for more than a fortnight.) I should imagine he ought not *now* to be critical as to the expiration of his furlough. The condition of our whole Line is at present very disagreeable. The soldiers uneasy for want of pay and cloaths. I wish our friends in Connecticut were properly sensible of the con-

sequences which may attend it. Be so good as to present my compliments to Mr. and Mrs. Webb and to your sisters. Believe me, Sir, Your friend and humble servant,

JOHN P. WYLLYS.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B. Webb, Wethersfield.

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FROM JOHN CHENEVARD.

Dear Sir:

I am informed the Bearer is called on to join his Regiment; could wish he might be permitted to tarry here longer, as he's really not recovered strength enough to undertake the journey. Permit me to give you a short but honest narrative of the distress of the family, and then judge ye whether it will not be an act of generosity and humanity to leave him. His mother, an honest labourous woman, had by her hands collected a sufficiency to carry her thro the winter, when her eldest daughter was siezed with a violent fever, which confined her seven weeks with great expence and trouble. In the midst of her disorder her two sons came home sick. James has recovered his health in a great measure, but William is the most distressed object I ever beheld. The friends and neighbors are called in every day to see him take his final departure from this world of sin, sorrow and affliction, and as he appears desirous himself with sure grounds and hopes of being Eternally happy, we wish to see his eyes closed that he may be freed from pain. We are daily contributing something to the relief of the family, everything being exhausted. I shouldn't interfere in this matter, was it not by particular desire and knowing the Absolute Necessity of this lad's tarrying to assist his mother and brother by

attachment, that he might draw his rations, &c. If I have any share of your friendship and esteem, let me beg the favor of you to let the lad remain on command or detachment, as you judge, but till April, which will be gratefully acknowledged by them as well as by, Dear Sir, your affectionate friend, &c.,

J. CHENEVARD.

Dec. 24th, 1781.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B. Webb, Weathersfield.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

KENSINGTON, 27th December, [1781],  
and 12 o'clock at night.

My Dear Brother:

When I think of you I always think of our most valuable departed Friend, and wish myself with her. How amible does every past seen of hers now appear to me; when she went I lost a most amible Friend, one long before I knew you ever saw, I esteemed and loved. She is gone to her Blessed God, who I pray of his Infinite mercy to look down upon us and our amible Friends with pity and compassion and fit and prepare us to bid this world adieu, and all its earthly vanities, and join our Amible departed Friends in Heaven. Let it comfort you my Brother when you have every reason to believe that our Friend is with the Blessed in Paradise.

Present my respects to Mrs. Bancker and love to Aunt Polly. Tell them I intend paying them a visit in a few days. I am, my friend, wishing you health and happiness.

Your sincere and affectionate brother,

JOHN WEBB.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B. Webb. Wethersfield. Per Dragoon.

FROM EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

NORWICH, 31 December, 1781.

Dear Sir:

I have drawn an order on you for fourteen dollars in favor of Mr. David Nevins, it being this amount of his bill for a beaver Hatt. Hope it may meet your acceptance, trusting you have not forgot a wager between us which enables me thus to draw upon you. I am, dear sir, Your humble servant,

EBEN HUNTINGTON.

Wethersfield, 3rd January, 1781. Received of Samuel B. Webb Four Pounds four shillings in full, for a Bever Hat which Lt. Colonel Huntington purchased of David Nevins.<sup>1</sup>

THOMAS LATHROP.

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GENERAL ORDERS.

EXTRACT FROM THE ORDERS OF HIS EXCELLENCY.

HEAD QUARTERS, PHILADELPHIA, January 10, 1782.

As it is expected that in the course of the present winter, many of the officers and men belonging to the Army of the United States will be indulged with leave of absence from their corps for a limitted time, and as it is absolutely necessary that the strictest punctuality should be observed in returning at the expiration of the time to which their furloughs are granted; the Commander in Chief has thought proper thus early in the season to signify his fixed determination to all concerned, that every officer or soldier who

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<sup>1</sup> The receipt is in the writing of Webb.

shall absent himself beyond the limitation of his furlough, unless he shall be prevented from returning by some inevitable misfortune or other casualty which shall be deemed a sufficient reason for his detention, shall for such conduct be brought to tryal before a court martial. Upon the return of any officer who may have violated this order by absenting himself beyond the time of his furlough, report is immediately to be made thereof to the Adjutant General or deputy Adjutant General, who is to represent the same to the General or Commanding officer that the necessary steps may be taken without delay. The mode of proceeding against absent officers as pointed out by a Resolution of Congress is to be invariably pursued. Soldiers are also to be tryed and punished in the most summary manner, if they will be guilty of crimes so injurious to the public service as well as to the interest and feelings of their brother soldiers, who may in consequence of the long absence of such delinquents be unevitably debared the gratification of visiting their friends before the opening of the Campaign. The General, however, cannot but hope by taking the precaution of causing this public notice of his intention to be given to the Army the disagreeable consequences will be prevented which might otherways take place; for he is persuaded who ever will give himself the trouble to reflect will find that as grait indulgences as are consistent with the Public good and justice to individuals are granted in the first instance; that as a certain number of officers must be constantly kept in camp, every tresspass upon those indulgencies is an act of injustice to the individual who is detained in consequence of it, probably in the Issue to the Public. That the most pointed exactness is indispensably requisite in all military affairs, events unknown frequently



of the graitest magnitude depending upon it; and that those men who have attached themselves to the Service of their Country should consider that the Public has a constant clame upon their servises, which can only be dispensed with under certen circumstances and for definite periods, of which those interested with the regulations of the Army must be supposed to be the most competent judges. No Officer or Soldier is to be permitted to be absent on furlough after the 10th day of April next, on any occation what ever.

EDWARD HAND, *Adjutant General*.

Sir:

As it may possible be in your power to prevent many of those irregularities which the inclosed orders so expressly refer to, I have thought best to transmit them.

Am, Sir, with every sentiment of esteem Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN BETTS.<sup>1</sup>

CAMP [HIGHLAND HUTTS], Feby. 3, 82.

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FROM ELISHA HOPKINS.

CONNECTICUT HUTTS, 3 February, 1782.

My Dear Colonel:

Capt. Betts at present commands the Regiment, and he informs me that he has wrote you a few days since; therefore I shall not be very particular, but mention a few Regimental matters. The clothing is making with as much expedition as the number of Taylors will admit; but if there is no addition to them we (the 3 Regt.) shall not be able

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<sup>1</sup> Of Norwalk, Conn. He was a captain in Webb's regiment and served through the war.

is take the field in Compleat uniform as soon as any other Regiment of the Line by a month.

The Officers present have exerted themselves both for the honor of the Regiment and its Commander; but still it is reflected on from the circumstance of its having no field officer present at this time, especially when the orders are so pointed respecting it. It is on no other principal, my Dear Colonel Webb, but that of real and personal Friendship that induces me to mention these circumstances to you; therefore do permit me to ask you to come on to Camp, if it is but for a few days. I know how sensibly your and your friends misfortunes touch you, but the world in general does not look threw the same perspective. I have applyed to Mr. Beers for Russel's <sup>1</sup> wages. He will deliver the money when ever Russell will give an order. I told Asher what his Colonel had wrote, but he declined giving an order, saying that he had given the Colonel one when at Wethersfield.

That part of your baggage that was left in Camp I have at my Hut. Old Jack takes care of your kitchen furniture. Your goats are in good order, but one of the last year's kids has a young one which will die on account of the very severe weather.

Sergeant Boardman <sup>2</sup> will deliver this; he is able to give you satisfactory answers to many questions in regard to Regimental matters. He has on one of the new coats. My servant this moment informs that the kid is dead. I am sorry for it but I have this consolation, I shall have milk for Coffee.

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<sup>1</sup> Ashur Russell, of Captain Joseph Walker's company, Webb's regiment.

<sup>2</sup> Elijah Boardman, sergeant in Captain Bulkley's company.

I do not know whether my friends think of it or not, but I at this moment imagine myself entitled to a furlough, but [am] kept in camp from the reason of Capt. Riley's not joining. What entitles him to any more indulgence than myself I do not know, but it is true he has it. This I mention to you as a Captain in the Regiment that you command, and under which command I have ever conceived myself happy. At this moment I have not cloths decent to appear with, but I'll never ask permission for absence untill it can be done consistent with duty.

The men that was inoculated have in general had it light; but some are left quite low, two has died. I conclude with my best compliments to all friends around you, My dear Colonel, with sentiments of real esteem, Your most obedient and very humble servt.,

E. HOPKINS.

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, Wethersfield, Connecticut.  
By Sergt. Boardman.

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FROM EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

CONNECTICUT VILLAGE, 15 February, '82.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed you will receive a packet which I found this day at Col. Hull's,<sup>1</sup> as you will see by his note directed to you. Must beg you will send Sergt. Hosmer<sup>2</sup> to Camp immediately, as his presence is absolutely necessary, as Capt. Hopkins will be able to inform you, to whom I refer you for the more particular situation of the Regiment than my knowledge will afford.

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<sup>1</sup> Col. William Hull of the Massachusetts line.

<sup>2</sup> Prosper Hosmer, of Captain Hopkins' company.

Please make my affectionate compliments to Mrs. Bancker, Miss Duyckink and your brother's family, and believe me yours,

EBEN. HUNTINGTON.

Addressed: Colonel Saml. B. Webb, Wethersfield. By Corporal Horton.

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ISRAEL STRONG TO CAPTAIN BETTS.

TOLLAND, February 20th, 1782.

Dear Sir:

Perhaps you think it strange that I have not ben to the Regiment. But the reson is this. On my Returen from the Regiment I met with the misfortien to fall in the River at farmingtown whare I allmost ketched my dath, for I have not Ben able to go three mildes from my hous sence, &c. I send inclosed in this letter my Commission and Beg you would Represent matters as favreabel to the Cort as you can. I fling my self upon the mercey of the Cort and would have matters go on the same as if I was thare, for as to Being thare I cannot, as I am not able &c. Sir, I am with esteem your most obedient humble servant,

ISREAL STRONG.

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FROM EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

CONNECTICUT VILLAGE, 2d March, 1782.

Dear Sir:

As Captain Hopkins would on his arrival be able to give you every (and indeed more) information than at that time I could or can now, is the cause why I have deferred writing from time to time. Whether you have as good reasons

for your silence I will not pretend to determine, tho' I fancy you can readily.

By a late General Order Col. Stewart<sup>1</sup> is appointed as Muster Master to the Northern Department, and Lt. Colonel Tennant<sup>2</sup> commands Legionary Corps M. M. to the Southern department, a pretty appointment for friend Stewart. I expected from the conversation I had with you that Hazard<sup>3</sup> would have joined his Regiment before this time; all others mentioned in General Orders to be called in, will be in immediately. Corp'l Ward<sup>4</sup> mentioned to me you wanted your Waggon harness; it was not back to Wethersfield and I supposed had been returned. You will please to make my Respectful Compliments to your Mamma, nor would I wish to be forgotten in desiring Compliments to Aunt Polly, Hetty, and Sally, and to the rest of our friendly circle.

I am, dear Sir, Your Humble Servant,

EBEN HUNTINGTON.

Addressed: Colonel Webb, Wethersfield. By Sergt. Griffin.

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FROM EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

CONNECTICUT VILLAGE, 4th March, '82.

Dear Sir:

This goes to Hartford by Doctor West<sup>5</sup> who yesterday received a discharge from the Army, by which conveyance

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<sup>1</sup> Walter Stewart.

<sup>2</sup> Jean Baptiste Ternant, once of Pulaski's legion.

<sup>3</sup> No one of this name appears on the muster rolls of Webb's regiment.

<sup>4</sup> Daniel Ward, of Captain Williams' company.

<sup>5</sup> Jeremiah West, of Tolland, Conn. He and John Rose were the surgeons in Webb's regiment. Rose was promoted and served to the close of the war. He came from Coventry.



I have thought best to advise you of his discharge and to recommend Doctor John Rose the Surgeon's Mate to fill the birth of a Surgeon. I would also mention to you a Mr. Waldo who has just compleated his time with Doctor Turner,<sup>1</sup> to receive him if you think proper. Rose you know, and General H[earth] will be able to give you every necessary information about Doctor Waldo. I think unless you attend to it immediately you must expect to be without a Surgeon during the Campaign, as the Governor and Council are not *over* anxious about appointing Commission or Staff Officers to fill the vacancies which happen in the Line.

I am, dear Sir, yours,

EBEN HUNTINGTON.

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, Wethersfield. By Doctor West.

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GULIAN VERPLANCK TO MRS. BANCKER.

FISHKILL, March 20th, 82.

Madam:

There is in my possession a Bond against your late Husband for seven hundred pounds, on which there will be due next May seven years Interest. Mr. Evert Bancker is the security who had advised me to write to you on the subject. My necessities drive me to solicit some assistance from you. I should not make this application in times of such difficulty as the present if my wants were

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<sup>1</sup> Philip Turner, of Norwich, Conn. He was Surgeon General in the Eastern Department, but retired in June, 1781. He had studied under Dr. Elisha Tracy, his father-in-law, and was the first surgeon in America to perform the operation of tying the femoral artery. He died in New York in 1815.

not extremely pressing. If you have it in your power to do anything it will very much oblige me. I beg you will favor me with an answer as soon as convenient. I remain Your humble servant,

GULIAN VERPLANCK.<sup>1</sup>

Addressed: Mrs. Bancker, at Mr. Joseph Webb's, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

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JOHN DUYCKINCK TO MRS. BANCKER.

NORTH BRANCH, 28th March, 1782.

Dear Madam:

I this instant received a few lines by way of Major Blinns, handed me by one of our nabours, whereby I am happy to find you am in Helth, and that Polley and Miss Hette Webb is recovering from there Illness. We have bean very anctious to here from you, we have once heard from you sence December, which was by the way of Mr. Smith to Mr. Christopher Bancker. We should of [have] bean glad to of [have] wrote you before, but could git no opportunity. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson <sup>2</sup> and Family is in good helth. Your old Nabours all anctious to hear from you.

The season so far advanced before I got the Mills that little done to the Dams, a few sticks of timber put on the last fall which was of Grate Service. We went on Prette well with the business of Milling untill about the Middle of December; at which time the wrighter ways between

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<sup>1</sup> Gulian Verplanck, son of Gulian and Mary (Crommelin) Verplanck, was born February 11, 1751, and died November 20, 1799. In 1784 he married Cornelia Johnstone, by whom he had seven children. His house was in Wall Street, New York.

<sup>2</sup> John Nelson, writer of the letter on p. 191, *infra*. His name is also spelled in some earlier letters Neilson.

the fulling mill and the Griss mills gave way, and made a breach and damaged the Wrighter weate and took of every Bucket from the Wheale; the Weather extreme cold. Notwithstanding I went at it with my own hands, the next day got two or three Carpenters, in two days after the Mills was fitt for Business. They continued in that manner untill first of March, at which time one of the Hoops round the up Strim Mill gave way, which don som little Damage which was repared and the Mills gowing two days after, the Ice has been very sevear. However we made out to keap them gowing little or no loss time, the House exceeding cold. Wood very diffacul to come at and very bad. We have got a good deal of our firewood from the Farm, so as to make the wood from the Islands burn. No person has made any attempts to Perchas the Mills. I fruguantly say the Mills are for sale. Godfree will not take the fulling mill on Hire, I have agreed with him as he formerly had thim. Taxis is very High. The tax for me to pay to first of June next is £18 Hard Money and State £27. 13. 2. Grain so exceeding lo that it will be dull besness, we are doing some merchant work but don with a deale of throuble. I fear the Mills will want a good deal of repars. I wish I could see you and Col. Webb to consult with you about the repars. If you realy intend to keeap them any time they should be repared properly. I shall do every thing in my power for your interests. All your relations hear in good Helth. Little Richard a find child. Neaver the least out of order; rises and stands him selfe by a chair. this don 10 Days a gow. Mrs. J. Duyckinck and children joins me in love to you sister, Polly and Miss Hette Webb, and am your affectionate Brother and H. S.

JOHN DUYCKINCK.

LEVINUS CLARKSON<sup>1</sup> TO JOSEPH WEBB.

NEW BRUNSWICK, 1st April, 1782.

Sir:

Your letter of the 15th December last came lately to hand. It should have been immediately answered, but was anxious waiting for a price current you was so obliging as to say you would furnish me with before your river opened. I have not been favored with a line from you since. Yesterday was handed me Col. John Nelson's favor, inclosing a letter from our friend Col. Webb, under date the 18th February last, who makes mention of inclosing a price current, which Col. Nelson and myself suppose your brother has neglected, as there was no price current inclosed. It is immaterial as to myself, having but little cash at command, and therefore shall freight my part provided the same freight is obtained with you as is given at Philadelphia. One half is given of flour for the other to the Havannah in small fast sailing vessels, and two fifths for large classes of ships.

Procure an experienced Commander and four seamen. My part of outfits please to draw on me for, provided you cant obtain the sum of one hundred pounds L[awful] m[one]y, or more, for a quarter part of Sloop *Jersey* as she now lays. Should you obtain the price limited I shall have more in your hands than will fit her compleat, vict-

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<sup>1</sup> Clarkson and John Dorsius had been Continental Agents in South Carolina of the Marine Committee for obtaining and shipping naval stores, and Clarkson now engaged in privateer adventures. In April of this year he, associated with James Hood and others, sent out the brig *Dandy*, of eight guns, but it was a Pennsylvania vessel. In December, 1781, he sent out a Connecticut schooner, the *Mayflower*.



ualled, &c. Should a 74 be too much for the *Adventurer*<sup>1</sup> I will dispose of  $\frac{1}{6}$ th at the same lay, whatever proportion I may hold in the sloop. I beg you'll freight agreeable to what is given at Philadelphia. I could easily procure one half was she at Philadelphia. Col. Jno. Nelson will give you his order for two-sixths. If she goes to the Havannah I do suppose she will [be] addressed to our friend James Seagrove. If he can obtain a large price for her what think you of having her sold and leaving the amount of vessel and freight in Mr. Seagrove's hands, to dispose of as the owners direct, to be shipped to any port they respectively order, should the shippers agree. I judge it would be best that the sloop (if not sold) should return to Philadelphia where sugars will fetch a better price, and I am convinced by your letter the sloop will sell for considerably more should the owners incline to sell her. This just depends on the shippers for liberty. Keep me informed of your proceedings that I may govern myself accordingly. Remember me to the Colonel, and believe me to be, Sir, Your humble servant,

LEVS. CLARKSON.

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JOHN NELSON TO JOSEPH WEBB.

TRENTON, 2 April, 1782.

Sir:

A few days ago I received your brother Col. Webb's letter of 18th February last, requesting me to consult Mr. Clarkson with respect to the directions to be given concerning the Sloop *Jersey* which I have done and his letter,

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<sup>1</sup> Neither of these vessels receives mention in the *Naval Records of the American Revolution*.



which accompanies this, is in answer thereto so far as he is concerned. As for the two-sixths which remains at my disposal, you will also procure freight for, if it can be done upon the terms mentioned in Mr. Clarkson's letter, and draw upon me for the amount of the outfits of that proportion of the vessel. As soon as the cost is known please to inform me of it, her destination, and other proceedings respecting her from time to time. I am, Sir, with most respectful compliments to your brother Your obedient very humble servant,

JOHN NELSON.

I should have wrote Col. Webb in answer to his letter concerning this business, but probably he may be in the field which might occasion delay.

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FROM HARRIET WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 7th April, 1782.  
Sunday night, 1 Clock.

The hour of parting draws very near. Alas, my dear Brother, when shall we again meet? 'Tis probable that it will be a long time before I have the pleasure of seeing you again. You and I shall never more have the same home. How lost I shall be without you; but it must be so, and I must be content. Forget me not; let not absence lessen your affection for her who is, and ever will be, tenderly interested in your happiness. Your afflictions have ever been mine. Could I but lessen them by partaking I should think myself happy. I have long wished to say something that would alleviate your mind from its present trouble, but I fear, alas, it is not in my power. I

very well know that your loss is very great. Parting with them we love is ever a hard task; but to bid adieu to one so amiable, so deservingly dear to all, requires great exertions for fortitude, lest the mind sink under its weight; this world is but a scene of woe. Why are we so very foolish as to expect peace and happiness while here? 'Tis said that affliction is our best friend and that its awful lessons are never so necessary as in youth. May it teach you, my dear brother, patience and resignation to the divine will.

Heaven give us friends to bless, the present scene  
Recalls them to prepare us for the next.

I cannot think it is our duty to attempt to extinguish nature, but to repress it. I could not wish to stand unmoved at distress; but it shall be my endeavor to turn every disaster to my own advantage. The dear amiable friend we so much lament is happ[il]y released from all pain and trouble. Why does my heart so little obey my reason as to lament the happiness of my excellent friend? Life at longest is but a few days; the scene ere long will be closed with us; then I trust we shall meet our dear departed friends to part no more. Let it be our first care, my dear brother, to make the necessary preparations for that most important journey which we most assuredly must take. Do my dear brother take care of your health. You may rest assured that we shall do everything that is in our power to make poor Mrs. Bancker happy. I hope to prevail on her to pay Mrs. Huntington a visit. Perhaps she will accompany me to Boston. Our dear sister will be very happy to see her; the journey I am sure would be of service to her. Should you write our friends in Jersey remember me to them all.

Good night, my dear brother, wherever I am my wishes for your happiness will be the same and my earnest petitions arise to heaven for the blessings and happiness I wish you to enjoy. Write as often as you can, and you will oblige your ever affectionate sister,

H. W.

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, April 21, 1782.

I had the pleasure this morning of receiving your favor No. 2 by Russell, with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. tea for trial, which I shall give my opinion of this afternoon. I am very sorry you have by your attendance on the Court Martial bin prevented from calling on Mr. Verplank; he may think it a neglect, as he desired an answer from me. I rely feel uneasy about it. I hope ere this reaches you I'll have had an opportunity. I wrote you a few days past by Mr. Carry of Fishkill, and inclosed the two accounts you wished to have. I fear he has not left Hartford yet; he has a brother their. If he should not be gon yet I'll indeaver to git him to take your brass candlesticks; it will be but a littel way for you to send him for them.

I received a letter from Mrs. Cary with one from him to you with the shous. Mine are mutch to large. Mrs. Cary in her letter to me tels me she had receved some elegiac lines wrote by Doctr. Cutting<sup>1</sup> on our Dear Departed friend, but fearing it would cause a Renewal of my grief she has not sent them to me. She nead not have bin

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. John Brown Cutting, of the medical service in the Eastern Department.

afraid to send them; nothing can bring her more in my mind than she ever is. Blessed reflection, while I mourn her loss I can look back to her past life with the pleasing consolation of its having been spent in innocence and virtue, of which she is now reaping a rich reward. My Dear young Partner in affliction, I only ask you to bair in your mind her Vertues; they are worthy of the searious reflection of all her freinds. I know you loved her and admired her for them. I have often heard you say you did.

Gods dealings with us is beyond our comprehension, nor have we a rite to ask him why he deals thus with us; to acquiesce is the grand point, and here I must confess I fall short. I cannot, I do not, submit to his will as I ought. You'll call me cruel to dwell so long on what must give you pain, but, my dear friend, you must know by experience the human heart being overcharged with affliction must by communicating ease itself of some of its burden.

Your Brother's family are all well. I drank tea with them yesterday. Miss [Belinda] Smith is with us yet, as is Mr. [Barnabas] Dean. I fear he does not intend to move to Hartford. I have not heard him say a word of it since you left us. He told me he intended writing to you. Possible he may mention it to you. General Huntington<sup>1</sup> called to see me some days ago. Pressed me very much to pay a visit to Mrs. Huntington. It was very polite in him. I can not promise you whether I can bring myself to do it or not. Alas, all things are alike to me. At home or abroad, or wherever I am, the same gloomy ideas

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<sup>1</sup> Jabez Huntington, of the Connecticut militia, a brother of Jedidiah Huntington.



possess my mind I thank you for all your wishes in your two affectinate letters. Continue to write me when ever it is in your [power]; be ahsured it is my greatist happyness to hear and know that you are well. After ading Polly and Miss Smith's Love and comliments, and recomending you to the care of an all Grasious Providence, I continue

to be your affectionate Mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

I have tried the tea, it is very good.

### COURT MARTIAL.

Proceedings of a Brigade Court Martial held by order of the Commander,<sup>1</sup> for the tryal of such prisoners as may be brought before them.

Captain [ERASTUS] WOLCOTT,<sup>2</sup> *President.*

Lieut. [SIMEON] AVERY. <sup>3</sup>	} <i>Members.</i>	{ Lieut. [ELIJAH] RANSOM. <sup>5</sup>
Lieut. [NATHAN HAYNES] WHITING. <sup>4</sup>		

The Court being duly formed proceeded to the tryal of Elisha Pulford, a soldier in the 5th Regiment; James Gray of the 1st Regiment; and Seth Dodge of the 3rd Regiment; confined for stealing or suffering to be stole

<sup>1</sup> Colonel Webb.

<sup>2</sup> Of Durkee's regiment. He was from Windsor, Conn.

<sup>3</sup> Avery, of Groton, was in Captain William Richards' company, Lieut. Col. Isaac Sherman's regiment.

<sup>4</sup> Whiting, of Hartford, in Captain Williams' company, Webb's regiment.

<sup>5</sup> Ransom, of Colchester, in Captain Elias Stillwell's company, Col. John Durkee's regiment.

<sup>6</sup> Beckwith, of Lyme, in Captain Simon Spalding's company, Durkee's regiment.



while on Sentry at the Com[missar]ys store, one Horseman's tent, and six bars of soap.

The prisoner's being called seperately, Plead not Guilty to the charge elledged against them. Com[missar]y Morgan appeared as an evidence against the prisoners, and being properly sworn, says he examined the box of soap at sun sett found it whole and unbroken. He further says he afterward ordered his scaleman to deliver two bars out of said box. He likewise says he saw the Horseman's tent at the same time.

George Leidle, the scaleman above mentioned, being called before the Court and sworn, says he opened the box of soap, weighed and delivered out two bars; examined it again in the morning and found six bars missing and likewise the tent.

The Prisoners in their defence say, the back part and North End of the store was open in such a manner that a person might privately get in without their discovering him from the situation they were posted, which was in front of the store.

The Court after consideration are of opinion the Prisoners are not guilty of the crimes charged against them.

ERASTUS WOLCOTT, *President*.

HUTTS, April 23, 1782.

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FROM WILLIAM NORTH.<sup>1</sup>

The Baron is at head quarters, where I have sent the Sergeant with the recommendation for Hackley's discharge. I hope he will receive a favorable answer.

The General sets out on Tuesday for Connecticut. I

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<sup>1</sup> Now aide de camp to Baron Steuben.

shall esteem myself honored by being known to your brother and family. The Baron will be happy to pay his respects to them. The bearer will hand you some newspapers, which after you have read please to hand to Colonel [Henry] Jackson. With the greatest respect I am, My dear Colonel, Your most humble servant,

WM. NORTH.

Sunday [near FISHKILL, May, 1782.]

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TO ABRAHAM OGDEN.

CONNECTICUT HUTTS, HIGHLANDS ON HUDSON'S RIVER,  
May 2, 1782.

Dear Sir:

Att the particular request of Mrs. Bancker, my Mother in Law and sole Executrix to the estate of her late Husband Richard Bancker decd, I am to desire you will take the earliest opportunity to inform me the particular state of debt originally against Edward Lewis, now in your hands. I beg you to be as particular as possible in informing me of its various stages and changes since committed to your charge, and likewise of the present prospects of obtaining the payment. I am likewise to request your information respecting the estate of Joseph Walling or his heirs. Walling is we suppose dead. He formerly lived near Hardy Town, Sussex County. Your attention and early answer to the above will oblige Mrs. Bancker, as well as

Your obedient and Most Humble Servant,

SAML. B. WEBB.

P. S. Be kind enough to direct for me the 3d Connecticut Regt.

## JOHN DUYCKINCK TO SARAH BANCKER.

My Dear Maddam:

N. BRANCH, May the 7th, 1782.

By Major [Benjamin] Tallmage sometime sence I recd a few lines from Coll. Webb. At the Major's return I wrote you, inclosed to the Coll. Make no doubt you have recd. it, and should of [have] bean glad to of [have] had your answer, as well to no how you and Polley is, as to give sum particular directions respecting the repares of the Mills. I did not no how affares was surcomstamced about the Mills; therefore did not rent the Houses in Brunswick, least it might of [have] bean most conveaniant for you to sell the Mills, and me to quit them before my time expired. If it could be consistant with your judgment I think you had best sell the Mills, if an oppertunity serves; as in these times they must be but a bill of cost. The marketts so dul that nothing can be don in the marchant way, and the grains in general so lo that the contry work will not near pay the rent, taxes, and mills so that is dull business. However I [am] now gowing to amuse my self by putting up a Still for the destilling of rye and syder, and take the liberty of putting of it on the Mill lott. If I can accomplish it it will be of service to the sale of the Mills, by showing the people that that branch of Business may be convenantly carried on there. When I leave the plase shall move all of. Inclosed is a letter a few days sence came to my hands for you. James and his family, as also Mrs. Van Skirk, is in goad helth. Evert as he always is; Richard is a fine child, stands alone; John continues in Brunswick; William with my little girls in good helth, as also Mother Henry. All join me with Mrs. Duyckinck in our seanceare love to you Polley, the Coll., and Miss Webb, and in hopes

of seeing you here to spend a part of the summer with us, and am, Dear Sister, your affectionate and Humble Servant,

JOHN DUYCKINCK.

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, May 9th, 1782.

I wrote you a few lines 4th inst. by Capt. Colfax,<sup>1</sup> inclosing a letter from my Brother Evert Bancker, doubt not but you have received it. Baron Stuben being at present at your Brothers, politely offered to be the bearer of this. In your letter No. 3 you seem to think your friend had neglected writing as often as they might; as for my part how ever disagreeable writing may be to me I would not give you pain by neglecting it, nor do I know of any opportunity that has slipped me without a line to you, except the Post, and that mode of conveyance I must confess I am rather fearful of, they having been frequently intercepted. When you write my Brother Duyckinck about the disposing of the mills you must remember to do it in such a manner as not to interfere with time he has rented them, which is till next May. I don't think however should a purchaser offer that he would hinder the sales of them, as he knows we must be at a great expence to prepare them and not intend to keep them would be folly. Your attention to my affairs I doubt not will help to relieve my mind of that burden, and at the same time in the end be an advantage to your self. The Mr. Ashmun I men-

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<sup>1</sup> He was not a captain until 1783. At this time he held rank as lieutenant in Captain Selah Benton's company, 5th Regiment, Lieut. Col. Isaac Sherman.



tioned to you, your Brother has seen. A man he knows where he lives and is acquainted with him. He ses he is dowing very well, so that I am in hopes we shall recover that monny, thoug can not say how soon. He has wrote to him to call on me. You deserve to know how Phillip behaved. I can asshure you he behave exseding well.

Genl. Hunting[ton] and Lady came to this Town yesterday; they with Mr. and Mrs. Webb, Miss Blinda Smith and sister Polly are gon to Hartford to see the multitude, it being alection day. Miss Pegge stayd with me; they ware very solicitous for my accompanying them, but alas, what satisfaction can a mind like mine overloaded with grief receve from a crowd of people, all or at least many blest with site of beloved friends, while I, disconsolate woman, have only to reflect that I have bin happy, but never more can be so again. Time indead, as you my dear friend say, may make it more supportable; but no time can make me happy. I know as Christans we have no rite to call to account the delings of Providence; he who rules all dus it wisely and for the best. I am sensible of your affecton and love for her. Your conduct to her ever convinced you love her, and I hope erelong we boath shal meet her never to be seperated more. Your kind and tender expressions of friendship for me I most gratfull remember. I shal write to Mrs. Cary in a day or two and request her to send the lines she mentioned. I think she was rong to mention them tel she sent them. Tel my Brother Duyckinck when you write him I will write him by the next oppertunity. I have began a letter to him but could not go on with it. Genl. Huntington returns to Norage [Norwich] on Saturday or Monday. Thay insist on my going with them; beleve I shal with your Sister



Hetty except their invitation; we shal not stay thare more than 2 days. Should you be able to pay me a visit I should be very sorry to be out. Mr. Dean still hear. He behaves very atentive and polite, notwithstanding I would mutch rether he went to Harford. I fear he cant git a house, [as] he does not say a word about it. Your friends hear are all well and desire to be affectionately remembered to you. Polly has bin for 2 or 3 days very unwell but is quite recovered Your Brother I sopose has acquanted you of the death of your Sister Barrel child; it is the younggest, a Betsey, a name dearror to me then any on earth.

May Hevens bless you and return you saft to your friends, is the sencear and ardent wish of Your affectinat mother,  
S. B.

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FROM WILLIAM HEATH.

HIGHLANDS, May 23, 1782.

Dear Sir:

Major General Baron Steuben wishes to see you, or if you cannot attend yourself, a Field Officer of the Connecticut Line, tomorrow in the forenoon at West point.

I am with great regard, Dear Sir, your obedient Servant,  
W. HEATH,  
*M. General.*

On the outer sheet: McCarthy will please forward this immediately.  
W. HEATH.

Addressed: Colonel Webb, or Commanding Officer of the Connecticut Line, Connecticut Huts. Public Service.

FROM JOHN P. WYLLYS.

PINEBRIDGE, 3rd June, 1782.

Dear Col:

The tea and sugar came safe, for which I am obliged to you. We get no news here, except what is contained in *Jemmy's* letter, which I inclose. I hope to find the Troops when I return ready to take the field, as the herbage here is very luxuriant. The duty here is now much easier than at first, or rather is more natural. I have slept under cover no night since I have been at the post. We make use of Sergt. *White's bed of honor* on which ten thousand men might sleep without touching. However the duty may be called hard. Our men grow sick fast. A party of our volunteer horse which I had sent as a scout fell in with some refugees, five or six of whom they wounded and took one prisoner. That is all the military exploit in which I have as yet had any hand since the command commenced. I expect at least Genl. ——'s thanks for planning. My compliments to the Officers of the Regiment and believe me Most sincerely yours,

JNO. P. WYLLYS.

Addressed: Colo. Saml. B. Webb, Connecticut Hutts, Highlands.  
To the care of Capt. Sewell.<sup>1</sup>

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WEATHERSFIELD, June 3, 1782.

Richard going of to morrow morning, although I have said all I could in my N. 7, would not let him go with out

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Sewall, of the Massachusetts line, now aide de camp to General Heath.

asking you how you do and letting you know that your friends are well, and that Mr. and Mrs. Cary is here on a visit. She tells me she has forgot to bring the lines Doct. Cutting wrote on our Dear Betsey. I do not know how she could, when she was coming to the very house that was interested [in] them. She has promised to send them as soon as she returns. I cannot say I have my health as well as I had some time ago, but it is not to be wondered at. My Dear Lovely Child is not a moment out of my thoughts and intruding troubles besides. O that I were with her, then I should be happy, and tell then I shall be a burden to my self and friends. Excuse me writing you so often on a subject that must bring to your mind your one trouble. After closing my last to you I received a letter from Mr. Ashmon. He tells me he will come down to me and that he consents himself under every obligation to do justice to the estate and relation of Mr. Bancker. I wish he may be able to get the whole Dept of him, but I fear as a great part of it is for rent, he will think it hard as he can not possess the land on account of the war. I shall do the best I can. Your Brother, wife, and sister Hetty are going to Boston in a few days. They are very desirous of my going with them, but I cannot consent to it. I believe they will take your carriage. I heard Col. Huntington a few days ago say he did not expect to go to camp in a month or six weeks. If your visit depends on his return to camp I fear we shall not see you soon. However I will not anticipate evils, they come fast enough. Polly is very well and desires her love to you. Except my warmest wishes for your health and happiness, and believe me to be with unfaded affection your mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

I have received the ring. I think it handsome; will take care of it.

Addressed: Colo. Saml. B. Webb, Connecticut Huts.

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FROM EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

[WETHERSFIELD], 5 June, 82.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed you will receive a long and tedious scrall which should be accompanied with some newspapers, but I have not been able to obtain them. Yesterday two lads returned to me from Camp musterd out, one of them 21 years old, 5 feet 5 inches high, and has served two small tours in the Continental Army; but I will not add to the subject.

I am, dear sir, Your humble servant,

EBEN. HUNTINGTON.

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, Camp. By Richard.

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WEATHERSFIELD, Saterday, 15th June, 1782.

I wrote you a few lines by one of your serjents the 10 Inst. doubt not you have received it. Your N. 10 was handed me last evening. Observe what you told Mr. Bancker respecting the estate. As matters have turned out I wish you had bin more explisit with him. How ever if the instrument of convience is as saft as you think, there can be no danger. I cant think Christopher's treatment to me is by his father's knolege; nor do I think it worth your wile to take any notice of it to him for the pres-



ent. When I have seen you, with you tel me you hope will be soon, we will be better able to determon what is best to be done. In the mean time I have wrote to him and inclose it for your perusal. You will sea I have wrote with coolness; he is an in Prudent young man and I feel for his parents. O how blest beyond description have I bin in a child that I could accuse of no fault. Abraham Bancker has not bin hear yet; if he comes I will tell him how the estate was convied. I will in close you C[hristopher] Bancker's letter to me for your perusal, with Mr. Duyckinck's. I am at a loss what to say about the mills. They must have some repares, for I fear we shal not be able to sell them as soon as we wish, and the season for doing it will be over. But beg him as they are to be sold to put us to as littel expence as possable. I think Mr. Duyckinck was rong, as he knew they where to be sold, to put up a still. Should we be lucky enough to sell them and he takes his works of he will sertenly luse by it; but it is his one doing. He wrote me he was going about it in his last letter, but I did not think he would be so expedicious. In min to him I did not take any notice of it. He said he would take it of could we sell the mills, unless the porchisor would by it of him. I am surprised Mr. Ogdon should be sutch a stranger to his bisseness. I remember very well what he told me, and what Sherif also told me; it was secured and only wanted an account of the monny not being good. I leave it to you to derect Mr. Duyckinck about the repairs of the mill. He must take it out of the rent. Give my love to all of them when you write; tel him I have not bin well for some time or would have wrote him. I am glad your jant was agreeable. I could have wished to have sean some of my friends with



you, but alas, what releaf would the site of my friends be to me. You only I wish to see, all others are alike to me now.

Your Brother and sister set of in your carage this morning. Mr. Merrils and your sister Hetty in another carage for Boston, Philip on horseback. They expect to be back in a forth night. I hope Godfrie will muster the monny for his notes. I have not received a shilling yet, and God knows when I shal. Mr. and Mrs. Cary left us on Wensday last. She has had fine cole weather to ride in. Polly and your sister Abby desire their love to you. I must bid you adieu, and believe me to be with the heighest esteem and affection your mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

It is possable I maid a mistake in the Numbers of the two letters. I cannot recalect for sertan. I wil omit in closeing C. B. letter to me at this time, as his Brother may be hear. I may possibly wish to let him sea it. If you dont come soon I will send by another oppertunity.

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FROM SARAH BARRELL.

Sunday Afternoon, five o'clock.

Instead of going to church this afternoon I have sat down to write my long absent friends, whose presence is necessary to make my life happy. I mourn our peculiar fate; mine and yours, my dear Brother, has been something similar. Early in life are we made acquainted with sorrow. Now my dear Sammy can you really pity your Sally; your own loss tells you what I have experienced, and shall never forget. I heartily mourn with you on the death of your

beloved Betsey. She was soon torn from your arms, and not one comfort left; which was not my case. I had two pledges of our mutual affection; they both bid fair to be an ornament to me and friends. Two other sweet girls I had; the fairest is gone in a moment as it were; a more beautiful babe never saw the light. May I not repine but adore the hand that did it, and say thy will be done.

Mr. Barrel and myself are both disappointed that you did not according to promise pay us a visit before you joined the Army. I am sorry that your health is impaired. Pray take good care of yourself, and don't give way too much to grief. Remember that you are young and that time will soften your sorrows. I know this by experience. You must be sensible that I was extremely happy in my first partner, yet I consented to take another. *Still* I love ardently and well remember past happy days, too happy was it for a long duration, and we have great hopes that we shall in a few years bid adieu to time and join our departed friends never more to separate. This thought, my dear friend, will support us through every trouble.

Write me as frequent as you can. I long to have a letter from your own hand. I should long ere this have wrote you, but a very sick family has taken up all my attention. My thoughts are ever with you, and my prayers for your happiness is frequent. This day I have been reading your letters to me and can assure you they afforded me a sincere pleasure, for in every line was seen the tender brother, the sincere friend, and *such* may I ever find you. I pass my time as agreeably as I can when absent from so many friends. We ride almost every day and have an agreeable party. I wish that my dear Hetty and you were both here to partake with us. Yesterday in company with Mr.

Babcock, Mrs. Hubbard, and Berty Hubbard, we rode to Jamaica plains, where your friend [David] Henly <sup>1</sup> resides with his fair partner. At present they appear to be very happy. I wish it may end only with their lives. Church is out and Mr. Barrell returned, which causes me to lay aside my pen; but I will in future write oftener. Mr. B. joins me [in] best wishes for your health and happiness. Adieu, my friend and brother, and believe that I remain your most affectionate sister,

SARAH BARRELL.

June 18 [1782.]

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FROM EBENEZER HUNTINGTON.

WETH., 20th June, 1782.

Dear Webb:

By Doctor Ellis I was favored with yours of the 10th June with one enclosed for Mrs. Bancker, which I sent her that evening I received it. I am very unhappy that the recruits which have been sent on have been so bad as to have so great a number rejected as you mention. There has been greater neglect in some of the Mustering Officers I suspect than in myself. Since I have introduced the subject of musters I would wish to suggest one thing which the Assembly did before they adjourned, which was this, that in all instances where any recruits have been mustered out by the mustering officer sent from camp for that purpose for want of size, they shall be remustered by the Colonels of Militia regiments; and if they shall appear to them to be fit for the duties of a soldier, except in wanting size, they are to be sent into the State regiments, or to one

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<sup>1</sup> He had retired from service in April, 1779.

of the State Guards, and the class shall be exempt from all fines or other penalties arising from such mustering out. The consequence will be this: they will be sent to Horse-neck, and on any requisition to this State for men, that regiment will be ordered to join the Line, in lieu of other men; that in fact they will answer every purpose to the State as if they joined the line. Had directions been sent to the mustering officers to be more particular in their musters, and broke one or two of us who had been neglectful in our duty, the purposes would have been answered, as the Assembly would have not then taken it up; but they took it up with such spirit as to have nearly a vote for enabling the Colonels of Militia in all instances to muster the recruits and to prohibit any musters by us in any instance whatever. Since receiving those instructions I have mustered out those who have served two campaigns in the Connecticut Line, and one of those a very good lad who was five feet five inches high, well made, and in my opinion a *good soldier*.

By a letter from Capt. Williams to Mr. Burnham I am informed that you gave him some encouragement for an ensigncy. If you intend he shall have it the sooner the better. By an agreement among the Commanding Officers of Regiments last winter it will be necessary that a majority of them be united in such recommendation. Will it not be best to recommend Sergt. Maj. White <sup>1</sup> at the same time? I only suggest the matter to you to think of; you will best judge whether your regiment stands in need of any more officers. The Governor and Council have filled the vacancies recommended last winter by Gen. Parsons. I have

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<sup>1</sup> Jonathan W. White, sergeant major in Captain Bulkley's company.



given Grosvenor<sup>1</sup> the command of Durkee's regiment, and promoted Capt. Warner<sup>2</sup> to be Major of the same; the other vacancies are not filled, as Gen. Huntington did not know who were entitled to promotion among the subalterns. I think in the same recommendation for filling of vacancies that of new appointed officers ought to be subjoined. I hear that Cols. [John] Greateon, [Heman] Swift, and three other Colonels are promoted to be Brigadier.<sup>3</sup> If so it will make a regiment vacant for Lt. Colonel Johnson,<sup>4</sup> and another captain to be promoted.

Your brother Joseph and Lady, Sister Hetty, Mr. Merrials and Mr. S. Chester, set out for Boston last Saturday by the way of Norwich, where they proposed keeping the day of our Lord. I expect to get time to be at Norwich a day or two before I go to Camp, but at present it is uncertain.

The wafers you mention I will endeavor to procure and bring to camp with me, which will not be long; first, from the best information I can obtain from the different mustering officers, and from my knowledge of this county, I think you may not expect more than 500 men from this State, as the Assembly have affixed a penalty of non-compliance to the act for filling up the Line of 50 Dollars only, which is less than has been given in many instances for bountys; and whenever the penalty is less than the

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Grosvenor, of Pomfret, Inspector with rank of lieutenant colonel, until promoted to command the 1st Regiment.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Warner, of Middletown.

<sup>3</sup> Greateon, Rufus Putnam, and Elias Dayton were made brigadier generals January 7, 1783. The only promotion of this nature made in 1782 was that of Otho H. Williams, May 9.

<sup>4</sup> Jonathan Johnson, of Middletown, in Col. Heman Swift's regiment.



bounty to be given, you may rely on it they will spare the purse if they damn the Country; besides, they save themselves the trouble of looking for soldiers. As the women appear to be more zealous for recruiting and keeping up the army than the men, I have proposed to some of my friends that the classes should have the liberty to hire women, and that I will not be so strict as to *their measure*, as I am sure in the present distressed situation of the Army a court martial could not be convened who would censure me; tho' at the same time I would recommend that tall girls be procured that the offspring may be five feet six inches high. I have tired your patience and will close with compliments to my friends with you. Yours,

EBEN. HUNTINGTON.

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FROM THOMAS FREDERICK JACKSON.<sup>1</sup>

FISH KILL, June 27, 1782.

Sir:

I informed his Lordship this morning of the representation made by Majors Willis and Throop from you respecting the ground assigned for the encampment of the Connecticut Line. His Lordship desired me to acquaint you that it will be impossible for him to see General Heath until Sunday next; and that he shall be glad to meet you at Mr. Mandeville's about 10 o'clock on that day, to obtain such information of the circumstances of the troops under your command as may be necessary to represent to Gen-

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<sup>1</sup> He was from Connecticut, but his name does not appear in the rosters. He served as aide de camp to Lord Stirling from July, 1781, to January, 1783.

eral Heath. I am, Sir, with respect Your most obedient humble servant,

THOS. FREDK JACKSON,  
*Aid de Camp.*

Addressed: Colonel Saml. B. Webb. Commanding the Connecticut Line, Highlands.

FROM WILLIAM HEATH.

Dear Sir:

HIGHLANDS, June 29th, 1782.

Your favor of this date covering several certificates is handed to me. Enclosed you will find them returned with discharges for the several soldiers therein named. Please deliver them as their times of service respectively expire. The other soldiers you mention, whose times of service expire between this and the 25th of July, may render service; your resolution respecting them is a good one.

I am with great regard, Dear Sir, Your obedient servant,  
W. HEATH.

FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, Fryday morning, July 5th, 1782.

Your letters 12 and 13 was handed me last evening with two bundels; they shal be takeing care of; the Tea is very good. I thank you for it, and for every other attention and tenderness shoven me. If Providence puts more in my power than a greitfull heart, you my freind may clame it; not only be caus you merrit it, but for my Betsey sake. She maid you her choyce, her husband, and her friend; indearing titles but of short duration. Death, cruall Death justly caled the distroyer of human happyness

robed you of it. Your brother and sister is this moment returned from Boston. I'll go down and sea them; perhaps they have brought what we have long wished to sea.

I again resume my pen to tell you I have received the Eliza from Mr. Cary, witch Doct. Cutting wrote. It is Beautyfully don. He had drawn a lively portrait and seams to have felth the forse of what he wrote. I'll inclose it for you. The bitter anguis of my sole oblidgis me to quit writing for the present; when I have recovered a littel I'll take up my pen a gain.

Justly doath the Scripture place sutch triels a mong the greitest of earthly sorrows as we read Jer: 6: 26. O Daughter of my people, gerd the with sackcloth and wallow thy self in ashes; make the mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation. So greit is this grief that the Holy Ghost borrows it to express the deepest speritual troubles Zach. 12: 10: thay shal mourn for him as one mourneth for an only son, To be a widow exposed to oppression and contempt was not all I had to sustain; there was yet a juil in my poss[ess]ion that mollified and poured oyle in my wounds, was to be takeing from me. That is now don; that God hew gave it and hews rite I cant dispute has don it. Dont think my friend I sorrow as the Heathen do, that are ignorant of the grand relief by the Resurrection, No, I trust when mortality shal put on immortality I shall sea her shine with double luster and shear with the joys of heaven. To be free from sin in sorrow is difficult, but when we put on glorified bodys sin and sorrow will be don a way.

Monday morning. Your brother and sister have had a very pleasant jaunt, but have left your sister Hetty not as well as when she left Wethersfield. I wish it may only be

the affects of the jurny. I observe all the contents of your letter; but in hopes of seaing you in a few days will omit being porticklar, only that if you should write my brother Duyckinck before you leave Camp, I would wish you to copy the lines Doct. Cutting wrote, and in close them to him and can let him know the estate was regarly conveyed by my dear child. You desired to know in a letter to your brother Jack weather the hay on the home lot was cut for you. Phillip some time before he went to Boston askt Mr. Dean hew was to take care of it; he told him if he staid tel it was fit to cut that he would have it don; but if he whent to Hartford before that time Phillip should have it don for you. He has staid and has had it don, and I believe for him selfe; I sepose you hav sean before this by the News Papers that the Assembly of this State have passed a law that any person presed by law for depts due may pay them in Soldgers notes or any produce they have (haveing it apprised). I am told Boston has don sumthing simmelar to it, and no doubt the other states will follow the exsample, so that monny will be out of the question. All your friends hear desire to be affectionately remembered to you, and please to except with them every tender wish of a mothers heart for your helth and happyness.

SARAH BANCKER.

The lines are copyyed by Harris. Should there be any error in writeing it may be his.

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FROM ROBERT MAGAW.

Sir:

CARLISLE, 14th July, 1782.

Some time ago Coll. Ephraim Blaine presented you an Order from Rutgert Van Brunt, Esquire, of Long Island,



for £50 New York currency on you in my favour, being the Ballance of the pair of Black Horses you purchased of him. Coll. Blaine informed me he met you at Camp where it was not convenient for you to pay it, but that you promised to discharge the sum when afterwards called upon.

I took the Order as Cash, and now request you'll pay the sum of Fifty pounds New York Currency to Capt. Daniel Parker, whose receipt shall be your discharge for the same.

I am, Dear Sir, with great Respect your most Humble servant,

ROBT. MAGAW.

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, July 21st, 1782.

Colo. Huntington sets of for Camp to morrow morning, in hopes of seaing you. I have left writing to the last moment, and now have only time to ask you how you do and what has dissapinted your being here. Take it for granted you was determed on coming, as I heard of Mr. Lockwod reseving a letter from Camp, wrote on, honnord by Col. Webb. Capt. Woster hew left Camp very latly was in this town a few days ago said he had letters from you for the fammely, but he had left them at New Haven. Possebly you might have acquanted us by them what detained you. I am glad your fatuging Cort is over, wish you may not be troubeled with a nother very soon. Capt. Webb has spent some days with me; he is just set of for Worthington with a bad sweled face. I dont think he has looked well for some time past. The rest of your friends



here are well as usual, and desire to be remembered to you. Except my best wishes and believe me to be with unfained regard your mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb, Camp. Hon'd by Col. Huntington

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, Monday, Aug. 26, 1782.

I wrote you yesterday by the post. Hop it will be with you before this reaches you, giving you some account of your brother's misfortune. I wrote in a great hurry, scarcely know what I did write. Shall be sorry if it should not get safe to your hands. Pray let me hear by the first opportunity, and if you should be going in any dangerous situation, do not let my letters run the risk of falling in other hands. You know they are not correct enough for an impartial eye. I found your pistols and the lock in the place you mentioned; but the screws were not with them, nor could I find them. They will be delivered with this letter to soldier Welse, who just called on me to let me [know] he should set off for Camp this evening. Among the things on board the flag was two bundles for Mrs. Smith, containing her mother's cloths, sum spice, two pounds of tea, and one doz. handkerchiefs, which helped to make up the sum I mentioned in my former letter. Mr. Smith went to Sea Brook upon hearing of the seizure, and they delivered up his things to him. Had not Mr. Webb so uncommon a disposition to please and serve other people he would not have been in this hobble.<sup>1</sup> Harris has been down there to bring a

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<sup>1</sup> Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 409, 421.

horse your brother rode up. He returned last evening, and with som difficalty got from them a copy of the list or invoice of the things. I saw it at Mr. Webb's, and find their is two whole peaces of linnen that was sent to a Mrs. Stors of Boston, and a box of magazines and other triffeling books for the same person, witch is all that has the least a perenc of merchandise. Not opining the diferent little pacages he could not know what they contained. I think it is crual to aske a friend to bring anything out when they must risk their one reputation. I am sorry it has hapened, but you must make the best of it. We are in hopes he will save the vessel and possably the things too. He has bin to the Governor and Counsal, and by what I can lern thay seam rather disposed to favour him, looking a pon it as a trifiling affair; but you had best not mention that surcomstance. I shal have an other oppertunity by Mr. Carry to write you, when I will write to Jerseys also; at present I cant. God Bless you, and beleve me to be with unalterable affection your mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb. In the Light Infantry, near Head Quarters, Camp.

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FROM THOMAS COGSWELL.

Sir:

NEWBURGH, 20th August, 1782.

The bearer hereof, Mr. William Skeels, will attend as a conductor of teams to the corps under your command. I have wrote to Maj. Campbell A. D. Q. M. at the village to furnish him with teams and four close covered waggons. Coll. Jackson will take his own waggon. The one for the amunition I shall send from here with horses and driver

complete; but they wont be able to be with you till the day after tomorrow.

I am, Sir, Your humble servant,

THOMAS COGSWELL,

*W. M. G.*

Addressed: Colonel Webb, Commandant of the light Infantry, Peek Kill. Per Mr. Skeels.

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FROM EDWARD HAND.

HEAD QUARTERS, VERPLANK'S POINT, August 31, 1782.

The Light Infantry are to advance in front of the Army and take the best ground at or near the forke of the road leading to this place and Peekskill. They will keep out proper pickets and small scouts to patrol as far as Croton, independent of the battalion on the lines.

Extract from general orders.

EDWD. HAND, *Adj. Gn.*

*B.[rigade] Orders.* The Qr. Masters with one man from each Regiment will repair to the fork of the road leading to Verplanks point and Peek Kill tomorrow morning by seven o'clock.

Addressed: To Colonel Webb, the Light Infantry, Peekskill. Public Service.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

BEDFORD, Monday, 2 Sept., 1782.

My Dear Brother:

I am just ordered to send one of my best men to Head Quarters, by him had I time I would answer your letters.

I am very unhappy to hear of our brothers misfortune, and could have wished that he had taken your advice. Not one line have I received from any one of my friends since I left them. If you write them please to remember me to them. I was pleased by hearing that you had the command of the Lt. Infantry, and should have been happy was there a prospect of an active campaign; tho' if it brings peace God, who knows my heart, knows that I would give up every private emolument which might fall to my lott for that inestable blessing. I feel anxious my friend about the mony I owe to L——. Let me request you to send Richard over to Col. H—— for the ballance of his account. If its inconvenient write me, and I will obtain leave to go. If our friend Capt. Buckly should have collected my note, do take up my receipt. Is there any commissioners of accounts with the Army? I promised myself the happiness of seeing you before this, but we move from here tomorrow and god only knows where. Continue, if time and duty permit, to continue your friendly letters; you must not deny me that happiness. Without any compliment they afford me more real pleasure than any one thing under heaven. This Dragoon is ordered off immediately. And may the best of heavens blessings attend you is the wish of one who sincerely esteems you. My compliments please to remember to all friends.

JNO. WEBB.

P. S. Excuse this scroll.

Addressed: Col. Saml. B. Webb. Commanding the first Regiment of the Infantry, Camp. Per Dragoon.

FROM DAVID SMITH.<sup>1</sup>

QUARTERS NEAR PINESBRIDGE, Sept. 7th, 1782.

Dear Colonel:

Lieut. Mansfield<sup>2</sup> returned last evening from a tour down towards Kingsbridge. He lay one day within two miles of the bridge, concealed his party with a view of interrupting some of the enemy's small parties, but could not get sight of them.

By an inhabitant which he took up he was informed that the enemy were seldom on this side the bridge, and then in parties of three or four hundred strong. That the inhabitants and Army were much distressed for water, the drought being very severe there. A new Camp was forming on the heights south of Harleam plain, extending from river to river. The paper of the 4th instant is the only one I have been able to obtain. I am, dear Col., Your humble servant,

D. SMITH.

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, Commanding the Lt. Infantry.

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GULIAN VERPLANCK<sup>3</sup> TO MRS. BANCKER.

Madam:

FISHKILL, September 29th, 1782.

From the conversation I had with Col. Webb in the spring of the year respecting your late husband's bond, I was in-

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<sup>1</sup> Major in Lieut. Col. Isaac Sherman's regiment, but now with the Light Infantry under Webb. He had been Inspector in the Connecticut line.

<sup>2</sup> John Mansfield, of Wallingford, lieutenant in Col. Zebulon Butler's regiment.

<sup>3</sup> Gulian Verplanck had represented New York City in the Assembly, 1788-1797, and for almost the whole term of service he was Speaker of that body.



duced to flatter myself with the hopes of some assistance. Since then I have not heard from him. It is by no means my wish to put you to any difficulty, but the necessity I am under of discharging such debts as I have been obliged to contract compels me to request some assistance from you.

I am with respect, Your humble servant,  
GULIAN VERPLANCK.

Addressed: Mrs. Bancker, to the care of Mr. Joseph Webb, Wethersfield.

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FROM JOHN DUYCKINCK.

NORTH BRANCH, the 29 September, 1782.

My Dear Sir:

Yours of the 26th instant I have before me, and be very glad to find you and my sisters in good helth. I entended seting out for Wheathersfield the last of this month, but bisness at the present so surcomstance, dont think it prudent to leave home. As soon as a vacancy serves you may depend I will set out for Wheathersfield, and if I can find you be at camp will see you ther. I have made some enquiry about the debt due from the gentelman mentioned, and from what I can find out the money is safe. Exspect to hear more particularly soon. Since my last to you we have don little to the mills, want of Whether bords and nobs; those artacles I expect to have soon, shall then make a finish of the mills. The milling bisness is but dul, the season so dry that few of the mills can do anything. The fulling mill has not gone sence June; is now in good order and beleave will do bisness when ever waughter comes. Was it not for the stills I should make but a dull hand. The

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stills is dowing good bisness, or at least for so trifeling a calling. The stills makes 40 to 50 glls. good speerts every day. Wish I could make sale for a few Hog[shead]s. The prette lines on the deth of our once dea Eliza I acknoleg, which I have delivered to Mrs. Duyckinck and daughters. You mention you think the close of the winter the horrors of war will cease, which God grant may be the case. I rest, Dear Sir, with Mrs. Duyckinck, mother, and little ones joining with me in our seancear love to you and sisters, who I wish to see son, and our complament to all our friends and am, Dear sir, your affection friend and H. Servt.,

JNO. DUYCKINCK.

N. B. 3 days sence I sold the hors of William. I mean the hors Ferdinand for £70 to Azarck Dunham paable 3 monts.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, the 3 Connecticut Regiment.

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, Oct. 5, 1782.

A very bad head ake prevents my writeing you by this oppertunity more then just to tel you I receved your kind favour by Sergen [Benjamin] Dix, and am glad there is a prospect of the Britches [British] leveing New York. Mr. Brom received a letter from Long Island yester Day acquainting him that they have left Loyds Neck, and that the regelar trups where going to the Vestinde [West Indies], and the Heysons [Hessians] and Lowelist [Loyalist] where to defend the sittu. This last I do not belive. You wrot me you would expect a very surcomstansal letter from me. I would be more pertecklar but I rely feel so sick I can

hardly hold the pen in my hand. I wrot you by Capt. Rily the 2 instant make no dought you have receved it. Should we be so fortunate as that the Britches should leave the setty it is likely you will be in the town as soon as any of our trups. I wish you would render every service to my friend you can. You know the most of them. The widow Leake I wish you to call on as soon as you git there, and portect her from insult if it is in your power.<sup>1</sup> Dont call me to sangin, I am not; but causon is good betimes. I wish I was ther before they left the place, but I see no prospect of giting there. I have wrote more than I thought I should when I began, but of littel consiquence. Polly and all your friends joyn me in love to you, and I am with mutch regard and esteem your mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Light Infantry Camp, near Head Quarters.

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, October 7, 1782.

My last to you was by Sargt. [Benjamin] Dix; sence witch I have receved none from you. I heard Capt. [James] Watson was going to Camp. I purpis sending Phillip with this to him. I receved yesterday the inclosed letter from Mr. Verplanck. I have also inclosed a letter

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Leake, of the County of Albany, was named in the New York act of attainder, October 22, 1779. One of the same name died in 1774, leaving landed estates in New York City, Claverack, Albany and Tryon Counties, New York, New Jersey, on the Susquehannah, in East Florida and in Durham County, England, as well as the funds of England. His widow Ann died in 1784. Two sons, Robert William and John G. Leake, survived the father. See p. 229, *infra*.

I have wrote in answer to him for your pirrusal, if you think it will do I beg you will send it amediately, if not I wish you would write him as he may think it a neglect. I am very uneasey. I do not know how we shal colect the monny to pay him and I beleve he wants it or he would not be so pressing. If it was in my power to git it on intrist of any friend, I would gladly do it, tel we could settel the estate; but there is no sutch think to be don in these scarce times of monny. Let me know if you have bin able to write Walling or his Eirs. If I recolect rite I told you that they lived in Hardy Town [Hardiston], Sussix County. If you know any body in Goshon that you could derect to the care of, it might git to them. I would wish they should cum hear to settel it. If you write to them as you do not know perhaps how the debt stands, I hope my dear Col. Webb it wont be long be fore you can leave Camp that we may determen how we shal settel this affair. Affliction and trouble is my porsion in this life. I have had a verlant head ake for several days. It has not left me yet, and writing makes it wors. I there fore must conclude my letter for the present, and remain with affection and esteem your mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Light Infantry Camp, near Head Quarters. Favor of Capt. Watson.

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, Oct. 9, 1782.

This will be handed you by Mr. Van Cortland who with G[erardus] Beekman has spent some days at Mr. Webb.



They are to leve this tomorro morning, althoe I had wrote but two days be fore by Capt. Watson who intends stoping at camp in his way to Philadelphia. He promised to deliver them to you him self. I hope he will not fail dowing it, as they in closed a letter from Mr. Verplanck, and also one I wrote him in answer, witch I wished you to se before it was sent. I wish to God that affare could be setteled. I am mutch at a loss how we shall acomplish it, as I am not able to receve any monny, and selling the mills I sea no prospect of at present. I wish som monnyed man would perchis som of the lotts in the Great Patten. It might be better to them then puting there monny in tread, as they would and must increas in wallu at the close of the war, and there could be some reserved besides. Perhaps you might bring it about with Col. Wardswort. He has, I am told, baught a good dele of land, and as he has plenty of cash might sea an advantage in it. It will be all one to you witch part of the estate you have left, and it would red my mind of a great burdon. Miss Bull is with us on a visit for some days. She desires her compliments to you. I am better in helth than when I last wrote you, thoe in very low spirits, and heaven only knows when they will be better. Your friends hear are all in helth, and with Polly joyn me in love to you. I am with love and affection your mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

Give my compl. and best wishes to your Brother Jack.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Commanding the Light Infantry of the American Army, near Head Quarters.



FROM JOHN WEBB.

TRIP STREET, [near BEDFORD], 18th October, 1782.

My Dear Brother:

Within two or three days I have wrote you two letters, and chiefly on the subject of my note. I thought I would once more write you, as Major Tallmadge and Doctr. Renfield propose breckfasting with you tomorrow morning. I sent you by the former  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. thread No. 18, also  $\frac{1}{4}$  thread No. 16; the first cost 6/ and the latter 5/ New York currency; also twenty-three yards black ribbin which cost  $1\frac{1}{3}$  pr. Yd. New Y[ork] C[urrency]. I have saved some thread for Mrs. B[ancker] and Mrs. W[ebb], Nos. 26 and 30. I wish you to write me what things you wish me to get, and what used to be the price (in former times) of a piece of Blk. ribbin; also what used to be the prices of the things you write me to purchase. Casamer can be purchased for twenty shillings per yd N. Y. Cr. Doctr. Brunson had an eighty dollar note paid by our friend Col. Wadsworth. By him I learnt that there had a large some of mony come from Philadelphia, and that if I did not send soon it would all be paid out. If you can send me some mony by the bearer it will much oblige me. It's probable I think we shall not continue here long; therefore would request you to send me as much mony as you can. A letter a few days hence to Col. U[dney] Hay I think will be of service. If you write I request you will let Richard go.

Mr. Beekman wrote me that he should be happy to see me previous to my going to Wethersfield. Should you see him please to present my compliments to him and family, and inform him that I'll wait on him with pleasure.

You mentioned that you wished (some time past) that

you could send a letter to [*blank*]. I can send one I think by a carefull woman. The thread if you do not want, you may do with it as you please, also the other article.

If you see Col. Wadsworth I wish you to tell him that you have advised me to sell my horse for fifty guineas, and if he can sell him for that sum you wish he would.

Please to present my [ ] compliments to the gentlemen with you.

I am yours affectionately,

J. W.

Addressed: Colo. Saml. B. Webb, Commanding the Lt. Infantry of the American Army. Honord by Major Tallmadge.

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WETHERSFIELD, October 27th, 1782.

I had the pleasure yesterday of receiving two letters from you N. 21 and 22, and observe your cair and atention to me; beg you will not make your self uneasy. I nead but littel, and that I doubt not I shall git. Hay and wood will be most difficul; their is none got yet. I fear hay will be dear in perticular, if the French army quarters near this. Your littel colt is hear; it is small, but a beautiful well made horse. Phillip rides him and is very mutch pleased with him. He is shure the Colo. will not sel him when he comes to sea him; but as he is so small I think he will only be an expence to you. I would advise you to sel him or ship him of, if an oppertunity offers. He may fetch a good price of some jentelman for his son to ride. Butter I fear will not be to be had; the drouth has made that artickal very scarce. I am sorry there is a prospect

of your being detained at camp so long. I had flattered myself with the pleasure of seeing you soon, and still hope it may be sooner than you think. All your friends wish to see you, and none more sencearly than I do. I am sorry Cr. Bancker behaves so foolish as to his grandfather; leaving my husband's estate to him in case of death is Idel in deade. He left his estate between his four sons to be equally devided be twen them without reserve, and my husband and his brothers devided and passed deeds.<sup>1</sup> I have no uneasiness on that score. If I am not mistakeing I have the old jintelmans will by me; if not, it is recorded and can be seen for a few shillings. I cant recolect any papers neadfull but what I have got. I wish there was a good offer for some of it; we might soon show him whose title was best. If yours is good, witch I hope is the case, their is no danger. Their seams some prospect of my brother paying us a visit. I hope his calling on you at camp may give no uneaseness, as they looked on him with suspicion. I shal be very glad to sea him; he has a good hart. The day you mention that made my lovely Betsy yours did not pas unnoticed by me, nor is it possable any day should. My child is never out of my thoughts; her Heavenly voice is ever sounding in my ears, and her sweet image ever before me — the idea and impreson I wish to retain wile I live. It is all my consolation tel I meet her

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<sup>1</sup> Christopher Bancker, father-in-law of Mrs. Bancker, was a prominent merchant and magistrate in New York city, residing on the north-west corner of Wall and William Streets, and owning real estate in other parts of the city. He died April 13, 1763, in his sixty-eighth year. Five sons were named in the will — Evert, Adrian, Richard, Christopher and William — but Christopher died before his father. The widow of Christopher. Jr. married again, Robert Leake, commissary general. See p. 224, *supra*.

again. Was I as free from senn as I thought her, I should wish this was the day that I was to remove me where she is. I should then sorrow no more; but Heavens will must be don. Sally Chester was married last Wensday eight days. I had a very polite invitation to see the weading, but excused myself. Polly whent. They spent a very agreeable evening and past the next day and evening at your Brother's. I am told they wished often for you. Least they should think I did not pay proper atention to their politeness, I gave them an invitation the next week to spend an evening with me, witch they did, and seamed mutch pleased. Miss Bull was hear at the time, staid a forthnite. I have not sean Robbins sence you left us. I am not out of money. Now I think I have wrote you a verry surcumstantial letter, and must bid you adieu for the present, and remain as usual your Mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

P. S. Polly and your other friends desire their love to you.

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb, Commandant of the Light Infantry, American Camp.

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FROM HEMAN SWIFT.

CAMP 2ND CONNECTICUT BRIGADE, NOV. 1st, 1782.

Sir:

I have this moment received a letter from General Huntington informing me that he has directed the Field Officers of the first brigade to attend my Quarters this morning, in order to make the arrangements in their respective grades by mutual agreement, and desired me



to notify you, Major Smith <sup>1</sup> and Major Wright,<sup>2</sup> that it is his desire that you attend. You will be so good as to notify Majors Smith and Wright. I expect the gentlemen from the Point here soon.

I am sir with great respect your obedient servt.,

HEMAN SWIFT.

Addressed: Col. Webb, at his Quarters.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, November 6th, 1782.

Dear Brother:

A soldier this morning calls upon me. I embrace the opportunity to let you know that your good mother, Aunt and all of us all well. The French army have all marched from Hartford. Many of the French officers have called and paid their respect to us. Our house has been thronged. Do you expect to pay us a visit soon? What are the movements?

What is the news? as to the necessary supplies for your family, I hope they will be clever. Two or three articles are rather difficult to be got, first butter, hay and cash; but I trust we shall get along clever; but I hope you will not have too many horses. You have never told me whether you wished for part of the old barn on the lott you live on, or on your corner lott. Do write me soon as possible.

I am most sincerely yours.

[*No signature.*]

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb, Commanding the Light Infantry, American Army.

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<sup>1</sup> David Smith, of Waterbury, in Lieut. Col. Isaac Sherman's regiment.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph A. Wright, of Wethersfield, in Col. Zebulon Butler's regiment



FROM GERARD G. BEEKMAN.

G. G. Beekman presents his compliments to Col. Webb and acquaints him the Circle will put itself in motion agreeable to his request tomorrow.

PEEKSKILL, Saturday Morning, [November 16, 1782.]

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

November 19th, 1782.

Your very kind and obliging letter by Richard is now before me, and have made several attempts to answer it; but you, my dear friend, can easily judge the conflict I must have had with myself on the return of that day that separated for ever from my side my lovely Betsey. I strove to arm myself, but alas ten thousand corroding thoughts assaulted me, and my tears were my only relief. Does every mother feel as I do at the loss of their children? Surely then I have never pitied them as I ought (methinks I hear you say, every child is not worthy of that love and affection that she merited from her friends; she was nearer perfection than thousands of her sex). True, my friend, all have not been blessed with such a child, and their grief must be in proportion to their loss. Mine is very great indeed. Mrs. Cary has a daughter. I had a letter from her since I last wrote you, requesting me to stand god mother for it; it is to be named after our own dear Betsey. I will inclose it to you. I think it shows her affection was sincere, and that death has not dissolved it, which is to much the case with many people. I had an

oppertunity the next day after receved hers to write her, and acquies in her request. I am mutch disepinted at your not being able to leave camp sooner than the first of January. I had flattered myself with your being home mutch sooner; but why I flatter myself with anything in this life that can give me pleasure I know not, while everything conspires to make me more reched. Your attention for me merrits every accnolagement and gratitude from me. I beg you will not make yourself uneasy. I shall be provided with all I want. Your brother I think reather thought Richard cuming unnecessary. He dus not like I believe to be hurried. Richard could not accomplish the giting any wood while he was hear. Mr. Webb said he did not like to take any of your lot and I think to, if it can be got any where else, it will be best. I am extremely sorry I must give you so mutch trouble. Richard brought me eight dollars and six crown from Robbins. He has prommessed to pay the rest in a few days. If your wagon should cum this winter and a barrel or two of flower could be had without giveing you mutch trouble, and it is cheaper their, would it not be best to git it? It is 22/ hear, and I find it diffical to git. Had I not had the barrel of Cornell that came from the Branch, I don't know what we should have don, and it is almost to bad to eate. The drouth hear for som time made it diffical, and since every body seams to be bisy, they dont trash their weat. I have put up for Richard to take to you a vest, pr. stockens, and a pr. drawers I maid; the old one was not fit. [Abraham] Belding caled hear yesterday, told me he should go to camp in a bout ten days, when I will write you again. Pray dont disopint me in cuming home as soon as you can. Polly and the good people next dore joyne me in love to you,

and believe me to be as at all times, your Affectionate  
mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

Give my compliments to your Brother Jack.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

November 19, 1782.

The family is retired to bed. I steal a moment of this silent hour, unbeknown from the family, to write you, for you must know my late application to writing late at night has brot on my old difficulty, weakness of eyes, and I am forbid writing or reading. I have parted with Richard, told him I could not write; but my inclination is so great that have.caught my pen in this stealing silent manner, to beg you to make yourself quite easy and happy about your family. I have done for them just as if my own, and you may depend I shall untill you return. [There's] no difficulty, only in butter, cash, and hay. The last I thot [I had] engaged a large quantity for you, but —. Yet I trust you will do well enough. Tomorrow Philip goes the round for butter. You must excuse me, my eyes weep too much. I can only add it grieves me to the heart to be afflicted in my eyes (that I must submit, its a duty, but a hard one.) I am sincerely yours.

Gen. Washington's boots. Nine Dollars.<sup>1</sup>

[No signature.]

When your waggon returns remember if cheap [some] super fine flour.

Poor flour sells for 22/ to 24/; Beef 23 to 28/.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, Light Infantry, Camp. Per Richard.

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<sup>1</sup> Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, II, 342.

FROM FRANCES CARREY.

PHILIPS PATENT, November 25th, 1782.

Sir:

The slight acquaintence I had with you when at Peeks kill, and the friendship subsisting between you and my Brother Huntington's family, encourages me to ask for a Permitt to visit my home and connections at Peeks kill. I hope this request will not appear unreasonable, as it is the first time I have asked the favor since I was removed, which is near two years. If a Permitt should be granted should be glad to have my little boy included as company for me. The bearer will forward it to me.

By complying Coll. Webb will greatly oblige his friend and Humble servant,

FRANCES CARREY.

Addressed: Coll. Webb, Continental Village.

FROM NEHEMIAH HUBBARD.

NEW WINDSOR, December 9th, 1782.

Dear Sir:

I am favored with yours of this date by Mr. Frothingham; am sorry its not in my power to send you some of the crackers; those mentioned to you by Colo. Trumbull belonged to Col. Wadsworth and have since gone on to Hartford. When I had the pleasure to see you at my quarters I had near half a barrel; most of them are made use of since. The articles mentioned in your memorandum are furnished, except the Brown Sugar which has not come to hand yet. I have not been able since you was here to leave my room, have sent to the store to examin the flour

there, but no superfine. A vessel arrived this day with a load; will have it examined, and if any superfine you may depend on my sending a barrel by Trumbull's returning teams. I am, sir, with sentiments of esteem your obedient servant,

N. HUBBARD.

Colo. Samuel B. Webb, West Point.

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FROM DAVID SMITH.

DEANSBOROUGH, December 11th, 1782.

Dear Webb:

I cordially thank you for your kind attention in speaking to Genl. Knox on the subject of leave of absence. I have written to General Knox and stated my reasons fully on which I ground my request. If I succeed or not, I shall note this instance of your politeness and mark of friendship to me among the many I have heretofore received. I am, dear Webb, Yours affectionately,

D. SMITH.

Addressed: Colonel Webb, West Point.

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FROM HANNAH BIRDSALL.

PEEKS KILL, 12 December, 1782.

Colon. I have agreeable to your request taken  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Tea out of the canester; the remainder therein send you by the bearer with my compliments and am respectfully yours,

HANNAH BIRDSALL.

Addressed: To Colon. Samuel B. Webb, West Point.



## O N U N I F O R M.

Att a meeting of the Commanding Officers of the Connecticut Regiments present Col. Webb, Col. Butler and Lt. Col. Johnson, on the subject of haveing a uniformity in the Line.

Agreed that the Coat shall be of a common length reaching near down to the Knee band; that the four buttons be on the Cuff, pockett flaps and folds; that the Cuffs be round and the Buttons on the Cuffs; for the convenience of Soldiers the Cuff is to be open the under side at least three Inches and hooked; those officers that choose it can do the same. The Coat is not to be laped in the rear of the centre of the folds but made to hook up at the corners; the faceings, Cuffs, and Capes, to be of the usual length and width, with ten buttons on the faceings; the Soldiers faceings to lap sufficient to cover the Edge of the Cape; the officers to lap about four Inches on the Cape.

Hatts uniformly bound with white and cocked, if the binding can be obtained.

SAMUEL B. WEBB, *Col. 3d Regt.*

ZEBN. BUTLER, *Col. 1st Cavl. Regt.*

T. JOHNSON, *Lt. Colo. 2d Regt.*

WEST POINT, 19th Decr. 1782.

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FROM SARAH BANCKER.

WEATHERSFIELD, December 27, 1782.

Major [Joseph A.] Write a few moment ago sent to let me know he was to set of for camp tomorow morning, wich gives me the opertunity of writing you a few lines; nearly

for the satisfaction of writing you, as I have nothing very material to communicate at present, promising myself the pleasure of seeing you home in a few days. Richard is got home about half an our sence, and tels me you was very unwell when he left you with a cold. Hope before this reaches you you will have got the better of it. I fear you have exposed yourself to much by laying in a tent so long. It is quite unfortunate. A fine snow we had a few days ago had intirely left us, but hope we shal be favoured with another in a day or two, when Richard will amediately set of with the slay. Your brother and sister took the first of the snow to go to Norage [Norwich], witch was this day week. They are detained yet waiting for another to bring them back. I fancy Mrs. Webb must be very uneasy to be detained so long at this season of the year and bad roads for any other carage. Your other friends hear air all well, and joyn me with Polly in wishing you the compliments of the season. If you sea your brother Capt. Webb pleas to give my compliments to him, and belive me to be with the highest esteem and regard  
Your mother,

SARAH BANCKER.

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb, West Point. Honored per Major Wright.

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FROM G. G. BEEKMAN, JR.

Mr. Gerard G. Beekman Junr. presents his comps. to his friend Coll. Webb. Is very sorry to hear that he is been so very unwell, so that it has deprived him of the Coll.'s company, who he and Mrs. Beek[man] is always glad to see. She says she will be at weathersf[ield] this

winter if there is snow. Papa, who is here, is sorry you have been unwell as well as himself. Gilbert is recovering fast. Sister Nancy is as helthy as ever.

Sunday afternoon, half past 2 o'clock. PEEKS KILL 29th December, 1782.

Addressed: Col. Samuel B. Webb, West Point.

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FROM RICHARD PLATT.<sup>1</sup>

ROBINSON'S, December 31, [1782.]

Sir:

When in November last I presented you an order for the small barge in your possession you made no hesitation about the delivery, in case she had been at the Village Landing; and I think you must well remember that I said "I had no passion for *her in particular*, but only wanted a boat (and a boat I am now destitute of); and as your *then* situation required one of her description (and to my knowledge there was no other to be had) I readily subscribed to your case," tho' not in the least doubting that when a different aspect should arise you would resign her in favor of my principal. I am sorry that I am constrained to alter the opinion I had conceived; for it does not appear from the *verbal answers* you have given to *three written applications* of mine on the subject, that you intend to yield her. You will pardon me then for asking a *conclusive answer* to my question. I am, Sir, Your most Obedient servant,

RICHD. PLATT.

Addressed: Colonel Webb, Westpoint.

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<sup>1</sup> Of New York. He was aide de camp of General Macdougall through the war.

## TO RICHARD PLATT.

WEST POINT, Tuesday Evening, 31 December, 1782.

Sir:

I am this moment favor'd with yours of this day's date. That part which mentions my verbal reply to three within applications looks like neglect, which, be assured, I feel myself incapable of to any gentleman, either of superior, equal, or inferior rank; but more particularly to a man who I have profess'd and feel a Friendship for, *your principle* as well as yourself. I am therefore obliged to gratify my own feelings and quiet your doubts, by informing you that your first two notes were handed to me at a time when I was too ill to write on any subject, and as the boat was up the river, I supposed it sufficient to give the Serjeant that information. This morning your third note was dated on the dock. I had company, and could not conceive it necessary to detain you in that situation for a written reply. At Gen'l Knox's request I had mann'd the barge to take a French officer to Head Quarters. It was, therefore, out of my power to give you an order for her. You mistake the matter when you suppose I should have delivered you the Barge last November, had she been in the Creek. Be assured I had no intention to do it, but had an application been made immediately on my arrival here, and before I found the necessity I was under of sending from thirty to sixty miles up the river for every article of my winter stores, I should have given her up. She is to make one more trip (if the weather permits) up the river after stores for my private use, probably will be gone but a

few days. On her return I have no objection to your taking her.

I am, Sir, your most Hum. Servt.,  
S A M ' L B. W E B B.<sup>1</sup>

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

We are made happy this day by your letter telling us you are better. I have been much more anxious than I dare let Mrs. Bancker know. I hope Richard will get safe to camp with the sleigh and return soon. Mrs. Webb is yet at Norwich, caught there in a sleigh without snow. I send your Cags *Sturgeon*, the one of round hoops is for General Washington, either in the name of Erklens or myself. One is sold to young Gerry Beekman which please to favor to get safe to him. Tell Gerry he has not answered my last letter. The sturgeon is extremely fine and delicate; its fine for supper with good oil, bread and butter, vinegar and parsley.

My eyes forbid me writing. I am, dear Sam, Your most affectionate brother,

J. WEBB.

Saturday Evening 11 o'clock, [WETHERSFIELD, January, 1783.]

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, West Point Fort. Per Richard Bacon.

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<sup>1</sup> From the *Knox Papers* in the New England Historic Genealogical Society.



FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, 21 February, 1783.

Dear Sam:

I wrote you two or three posts past that Sally was confined to her chamber, and by General Lincoln a fortnight since that she was so well as that we expected to see you and Mrs. Bancker, or any friend you pleased to bring; since which I have heard nothing from you which makes me apprehensive my letters miscarried. I have only to say that I congratulate you on the appearance of peace, which must be pleasing to every good man, and to tell you that unless we see you before you go to camp, we *will not know* you when you return. We are all cleverly, and send love to you all. In haste, Dr. Sam, Yours affectionately,

JO. BARRELL.

Addressed: Colo. Sam. B. Webb at Wethersfield.

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GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS, NEWBURGH, 24th Feby. 1783.

The non arrival of the clothing expected from Europe renders the greatest economy of that article doubly necessary. The Commander in Chief therefore recommends that the business of turning and repairing the coats of last year should now be considered as a primary object; in doing which a certain model as to the fashion and length (for the coats ought to be made something shorter than the

present) will be established by the Commanding Officer of the Corps, from which there must be no deviation. Should the men in any instance presume to make alterations in the fashion of their clothing according to their own whim or caprice, report is to be made thereof by the inspector, that the want of system and police in such corps may be publicly noticed. It is expected that scarlet cloth for cuffs and capes, and perhaps half-facings will be furnished as the Secretary at War has been pleased to give assurances that he will cause a quantity of that cloth together with thread to be immediately forwarded from Philadelphia, if possible. The Commander in Chief flatters himself that he shall see the good taste and attention of the officers as beautifully displayed in the present instance as all the military virtues have been on every late occasion.

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ABRAHAM BANCKER TO MRS. BANCKER.

Dear Aunt:

I cannot consistent with my feelings let pass this opportunity without testifying the Respect I bear you. It has been a cause of great anxiety to our Family that we have been so long deprived of the Fruits of a free Communication; but have at length a Prospect of our Grievances being speedily terminated by a Return of Peace, with every concomitant Blessing that is to be derived from its Influence. The Calamities usually attending a State of Warfare have been borne by almost every Citizen within the States, either in a greater or less degree; but when to these are added the piercing Sorrows that arise from the loss of our dearest Connections in Life, the Burden becomes inex-

pressibly grievous, and cannot be conceived but by those whose Lot it has been to experience its Pangs. Believe me, Dear Aunt, we Sympathise with you in your Distress; and sincerely hope that as it has pleased the Almighty in his wise dispensations to visit you with his afflicting hand he may indue you with that Degree of Fortitude and Resignation as to hold you up from sinking under its mighty Pressure. We trust the day is not far distant when we shall be reunited in the Bands of Friendship and affection, and shall meet to part no more, until we quit the stage of Mortality.

I have but just returned from a Jaunt to Morristown and Philadelphia. Our Friends within those Boundaries are extremely well in Regard to Health, tho' some I found in very indigent circumstances. Christ. can scarce procure his Family their daily Bread. He is very necessitous. His Children without shoes or stockings, and not a change of Raiment to put on them. Polly is safely delivered of a Son which is like to do well. Herself was very low, occasioned by a Fall which was near being fatal to her, tho' am happy to advise you that she is on the Recovery.

My Father and Mother I left well on Friday. They enjoy much Peace and Tranquility comparatively with what they did when you were there. Those unruly Domesticks who at that time endangered our Safety are removed to such a distance as to free us from any dismal apprehension in future. Last summer they had formed a Conspiracy against our lives, of which I made a discovery on the eve of its being put into execution, which induced me to take such measures as to prevent its consequences. The strategem succeeded, for before they had the least knowledge of my intentions they found themselves se-

cured on board a vessel of war in which they took their departure to the West Indies.

Mr. Justus B. Smith<sup>1</sup> who has been pleased to offer himself as a Bearer of this letter, will deliver this to you; to him I refer you for any Information you may desire respecting the present situation of affairs in this Quarter.

It would be a gratification to us while so unhappily separated to hear frequently from those we esteem. Consistent with that principle I beg leave to assure you that an answer to this scrawl will be deemed a peculiar favor; which shall prompt our future exertions to oblige.

Accept our best love and fondest wishes for your Preservation. Please make my Respects acceptable to Col. S. B. Webb, Miss Webb and Miss Duyckinck.

I am, Dear Aunt, with invariable attachment your affectionate Nephew,

ABRM. BANCKER.

NEW YORK, 16th March, 1783.

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#### MEMORIAL OF CORPORALS.

[WEST POINT], April 16th, 1783.

Sir:

It is the request of those whose names are under written that Thomas Stanly may be repromoted. We are sensible he has been guilty of breach of orders; but we think his

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<sup>1</sup> Son of John and Margaret Smith, of Westchester, and brother-in-law of Richard (or Christopher) Bancker, who had married his sister Mary. He had two brothers, William S. Smith and John Smith.

crime not altogether scandalous: and that his reputation merits our attention. The happy day of peace is come, and it must give him disagreeable sensations to return to his friends thus disgraced.

We are, Sir, your Honor's humble servant

REUBEN MOSS <sup>1</sup>  
 BENJ. WHEELER <sup>2</sup>  
 ISAAC NORTHRUP <sup>1</sup>  
 DANIEL PORTER <sup>3</sup>  
 ABRAHAM PARKER <sup>1</sup>  
 GEORGE HUBBARD <sup>4</sup>  
 JAMES HOOKER <sup>5</sup>  
 ABEL HITCHCOCK <sup>1</sup>  
 JAMES DOWNS <sup>4</sup>  
 SAMUEL JACKSON <sup>5</sup>  
 GIDEON GOFF <sup>6</sup>  
 STEPHEN ROBERTS <sup>9</sup>  
 JOHN THOMAS <sup>8</sup>

REUBEN CARTER <sup>7</sup>  
 NEKLAS HOWEL <sup>1</sup>  
 JESSE ST. JOHN <sup>10</sup>  
 FREDERICK STODDARD <sup>9</sup>  
 RICHARD BELDING <sup>11</sup>  
 ASHER HICKOX  
 GILES WILCOX <sup>12</sup>  
 AMASA GRENELL <sup>1</sup>  
 JAMES CR[?] <sup>1</sup>  
 DAVID LOUNSBURY <sup>13</sup>  
 ARMY SPERRY <sup>8</sup>  
 MOSES PORTER <sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Of Colonel Butler's regiment.

<sup>2</sup> Of Capt. David Dorrance's company, Lieut. Col. Sherman's regiment.

<sup>3</sup> Of Capt. John Riley's company, Webb's regiment.

<sup>4</sup> Of Capt. Stephen Betts' company, Webb's regiment.

<sup>5</sup> Of Capt. Selah Benton's company, Sherman's regiment.

<sup>6</sup> Of Capt. Edward Bulkley's company, Webb's regiment.

<sup>7</sup> Of Capt. Samuel W. Williams' company, Webb's regiment.

<sup>8</sup> Of Capt. Joseph Walker's company, Webb's regiment.

<sup>9</sup> Of Capt. Samuel Sanford's company, Sherman's regiment.

<sup>10</sup> Of Capt. David Parsons' company, Webb's regiment.

<sup>11</sup> Of Capt. Elisha Hopkins' company, Webb's regiment.

<sup>12</sup> Of Capt. Asahel Hodge's company, Sherman's regiment.

<sup>13</sup> Of Capt. Roger Welles' company, Webb's regiment.



FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

At Mr. Beekman's

Thursday 12 o'clock [PEEKSKILL, April 25, 1783.]

Dear Brother:

I arrived here about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour ago with Mrs. Bancker. I inclose you a Letter from Genl. Trumbull. We wish to see you immediately. We have no Hay for our horses here. Is it not best for Richard to take the Horses home? Does Mrs. Huntington go in with us. I can only say I am extremely anxious to make the utmost dispatch as I left my affairs at home at sixes and sevens. If Brother Jack is with you I suppose he will come with you to see us. You will do the needful about sending to Head Quarters. Indeed I do not think its needful to say anything about it. At Connecticut every one goes and comes that pleases without ceremony, and sending to Head Quarters will delay us. You'll observe this day fortnight is our election. I am in a hurry and almost crazy to get back. I hope everything is ready for our dispatch.

I am with compliments to the Circle, Yours sincerely,

JOS. WEBB.

You'll observe I leave the whole to your Government, but beg you to dispatch us this afternoon if you can.

Addressed: Colonel Samuel B. Webb, West Point. Per Master Jack.

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FROM WILLIAM NORTH.

Dear Colonel:

The Baron [Steuben] wrote your Brother some time since of an affair between them, but as he has not answered the Baron's letter he fears it has miscarried, and has sent

him a duplicate which I must beg you to take the trouble of forwarding.

The Baron presents his Compliments to you and Capt. Webb, and asks the favor of your Company at dinner on Friday next. This pleasure I hope you will not deny the Baron and his family.

With the greatest respect I am, Dr. Colonel, your Obedient servant,

WM. NORTH.

Tuesday afternoon, [FISHKILL, April 29, 1783.]

Addressed: Colonel Sam'l B. Webb, West Point.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

[WETHERSFIELD, May, 1783.]<sup>1</sup>

Dear Brother:

I suppose this will find you in York with your good Mother, to whom please to make every apology in your power for me. Tell her to forgive my seeming neglect. We are all extremely anxious to have her back. I have the satisfaction of telling you that your Horses are in fine *Order*. William has behaved extremely well, but goes away soon. Cant you get a likely Boy to live with you; a Hessian is much the best. Philip has left Coits and gone off. Mr. Richard Smith begs if you can conveniently find a Hessian that has been waiter to an Officer, you would send him one. Will it not be well for you to send out a good firkin Irish butter, a Gloucester Cheese, some trifle of Porter and ale, for your family, and some little matters that may please Mrs. Bancker? Mr. Lloyd and a large

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<sup>1</sup> "Received June 2d, in New York."

circle dine with Broome this day. Abby Lloyd was married last Thursday Evening. My baggage I left at John Miller's, near the Coffee House. If not already come away please to send me per the first opportunity.

I am, Dear Sam, Your affectionate Brother,  
J. WEBB.

I wish you would call on Joseph Hallet, if you know him. He was very polite to me. So was John Miller. By the bye Gen. P[arsons] says you must call on Sam Jarvis in his name and ask him to shew you an account of supplies to Sheldon's Regiment during this war. Perhaps you may find a certain Major's account. Its of consequence.

Yrs. Aff.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, to the Care of Mrs. Duncomb, No. 20 Queen Street, New York. Per Mr. Stephen Chester and John Wright.

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FROM MRS. MARY DUYCKINCK.<sup>1</sup>

WETHERSFIELD, May 9th, 1783.

I received by Major Wright a few lines. Could not let Richard go without writing a line or two, though am at a loss what to say, as my writing faculties are not very bright. However, if I had nothing more to say than that your friends here are well, it would give you some degree of Pleashure. You observe it must be very dull; your observations are very just, it is much so indeed. Your Brother is just returned from New York and left my good sister behind. When or how she is to get back I know not. She wrote me a few lines, though nothing particular. Your

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<sup>1</sup> She was the "Aunt Polly" of these letters.

brother says New York is very disagreeable. He was glad to get out as soon as possible. I received a letter last evening from your sister Hetty. Your friends in Boston are all well. Miss Braisher is soon to be married to Mr. Hall. She with Mrs. Cary is soon to be through here on their way to Jersey. The Miss Smiths are with me, at present at a dance, past twelve o'clock. No appearance of them yet. Will not intrude on your patience, will only add my sincere wishes for your health. From your affectionate friend,

M. D.

Addressed: Colo. Samuel B. Webb, West Point. Richard Bacon.

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FROM HENRY JACKSON.

HUTS FIRST MASS'TTS BRIGADE, June 8, 1783.

Sir:

The inclosed is a copy of the Commander in Chief's answer to our letter of yesterday, respecting the Drums and Fifes inlisted for the war, being permitted to carry Arms with them on *Furlough*. You will please to send it to the several Commanding Officers of Regiments at and near Westpoint. God bless you.

I am with much Esteem your friend and humble servant,  
H. JACKSON.

P. S. The bearer will deliver you the *prayer* book.

H. J.

Addressed: Colo. Sam'l B. Webb, or in his absence to Colo. John Crane, West Point.

FROM STACY HEPBURN.

PHILADELPHIA, 7th July, 1783.

Sir:

Your Bill on Silas Deane in favor of J. Seagrove for £100 Sterling (and drawn about three years since) is now returned Protested, and as Mr. Seagrove is in Havanna you will much oblige me by taking up the Bill as soon as Possible. The customary damages of this place is 20 per cent and Cost of Protest and no Interest. I am Respectfully Your Friend.

STACY HEPBURN.

Sure to let me hear from by return of Post.

Addressed: Samuel B. Webb, Esqr., supposed to be at Weathersfield, Connecticut.

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FROM WILLIAM STEPHENS SMITH.

Fryday, 2 oClock [New York, October, 1783.]

Dear Sam:

If you will accompany me to dinner this day, I will call on you. The gentleman mentioned is to be one of the Company, and we may have an opportunity of conversing with him together upon the business. I hope it will not interfere with your arrangements, but I think it best for the dispatch of business that you take part of my room, and that we lodge together. In short it must be so; therefore govern yourself accordingly. Your friend, &c.

W. S. SMITH.



## TO JOSEPH BARRELL.

WETHERSFIELD, 2 November, 1783.

Dear Barrell:

I have waited ten days for a private conveyance to forward you the hair for the rings, and the Pattinett for Sally; none has offered. I shall send them by tomorrow's post. Mrs. Bancker is anxious to have hers made considerable smaller than yours. She likewise seems desirous that in the place of the weeping Willow the Initials of her late Husband and Mrs. Webb should be placed, viz. R. B. and E. W., together with their age and time of Death. Mr. Bancker died the 18th of April, 1775, in the 47th year of his age. Mrs. Webb the 18th of November, 1781, in the 24th year of her age. If this can be done I wish you would alter the Device and directions accordingly. In the one done for me I could wish the Initials of Mrs. Webb, together with her Age and Death, the interval decorated with a weeping willow. When I say the interval I mean the place left provided the age and time of Mrs. Webb's death is placed around the outer edge of the ring. We all thank you for the trouble you have already given yourself in this business, but solicit your further attention in haveing them executed. For that purpose I have sent you 19 pnWt of old Gold. It is the wish of Mrs. Bancker it may be made up in the rings; some [of] it has been near 100 years in that family. If you think a Brooch is best for me, order it. In short do for me as you would do for yourself. Mrs. Cary's and Hetty's Hair you will please to get. I have numbered the others agreeable to your directions.

[*Unsigned.*]

FROM JESSE DEANE.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Brother:

The weather not permitting me to go out, and being in want of some of my things, also to send the rest on to Hartford, I shall be obliged to you to deliver them into the hands of the bearer. The weather and my present situation must excuse my not being more with you.

I remain my, Dear Brother, with sincere affection yours  
JESSE DEANE.

WETHERSFIELD, 13th November, 1783.

Addressed: A Monsieur Collonel Samuel B. Webb, at Werthersfield.

FROM JEDIDIAH HUNTINGTON.

[NORWICH], 17 November, 1783.

Dear Sir:

Upon my arrival at Norwich I found that Doctor Holmes<sup>2</sup> had received a letter from Colonel Smith on the subject of the memorandum you gave me, and that he had prepared an answer as full as appeared necessary. I sent the letter to Col. Smith by an opportunity which then presented; at the same time gave the Col. my testimony of the Doctor's character. Please to present Mrs. H. and my compliments to Mrs. Bancker and the circle and believe me, dear Sir,

Your sincere Friend and humble servant,

J. HUNTINGTON.

Addressed: Colonel Webb, Wethersfield. Hon'd by Col. Chester.

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<sup>1</sup> Son of Silas Deane, who had gone to France in the care of John Adams, and had been educated there.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Silas Holmes, of Connecticut, surgeon's mate in 1776, and taken prisoner at the battle of Long Island.

FROM SIMEON DEANE.

WETHERSFIELD, 24 November, 1783.

Dear Sir:

It being very probable that the weather tomorrow may accomodate and even oblige my immediate departure, I can not do otherwise than to make my most respectful adieu in the situation which my present circumstances require.

Should you have any commands to N. York or to the Southward, I shall be happy on every occasion to oblige you, and beg you freely to write me on every opportunity.

I hope very shortly the pleasure of returning by this country; interim pray make my most respectful compliments to Messrs Bancker and Miss Duyckinck, also to your other worthy friends. I am with due respect and real esteem, Dr. Sir, your very humble servt,

SIMEON DEANE.

Addressed: Colonel Sam'l B. Webb, Wethersfield. Present. Per John Moore.

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FROM HECTOR ST. JOHN.

NEW YORK, 22d December, 1783.

Mr. St. John<sup>1</sup> presents his Compliments to General Webb, feels himself much honored by the General's very Polite Attention to the French Nation thro' him. Mr. St. John's short residence in this city has not yet given him an opportunity of knowing all the Gentlemen of that

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<sup>1</sup> J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, who had recently in Paris published his *Letters from an American Farmer*, and returned to the United States as French consul. See introduction in Lewisohn's edition of the *Letters*.

Nation who may at present be in this City, and therefore cannot with propriety point out to General Webb such as may be worthy of the Compliment the General means to pay them. The Chevalier D'Abeville and his Brother Monsieur D'Abeville are the only persons who Mr. St. John can at present mention to the General. Mr. St. John is sorry he was not at home when the General did him the honor of calling upon him.

Addressed: Brig'r General Webb, &c, &c, &c.

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FROM JOSIAH WATSON.

ALEXANDRIA, 14th September, '84.

Sir:

Mr. McEwen with your favor of the 7th Curt. delivered me forty four half Joes which I have accordingly placed to the credit of Mr. Barrell, and am obliged by your answering my Draft as also for the remittance. I beg leave to offer you my service at this place as elsewhere. At any time you may favor me with your commands due attention shall be given.

Respectfully I am, Sir, Your most obedient,

JOSIAH WATSON.

a Df. in fav. Mr. J. Parker	£70. 0. 0
do in Fav. Pollock & Urquhart]	49. 12. 3
44 half Joes. . . . .	105. 12. 0

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£225. 4.  $\frac{3}{4}$  Virginia Currency

Equal to 750  $\frac{2}{3}$  Dollars and 3d

Addressed: Samuel B. Webb, Merchant, New York.

## FROM CHRISTOPHER BANCKER.

NEW YORK, October 4th, 1784.

Sir:

By the will of Mrs. Smith, Relicque of Judge William Smith, find there is left a legacie of one hundred dollars [£30] to Mary Smith, daughter of Mr. John Smith, merchant of this place, which said Mary Smith is my wife.<sup>1</sup> By the will Mr. Ezekial Williams is appointed an executor. This with many legacies bequeathed is to be paid out of the Annuities due from the estate of Judge Smith. Its long since the same should have been paid. The season is fast approaching which requires every comfort, and I am very poorly provided with the means to obtain them. As this Legacie will be the means of contributing much to the number of necessaries we shall stand in need of, must request you to demand from Mr. Williams the said hundred dollars; in case he cannot pay you the same, then desire an order in my favor on Thomas Smith, Esqr., who is at present the Acting Executor to his father's estate and from whence the payments must arise of the different legacies left by Mrs. Smith. Your compliance with the above will greatly serve Sir, your humble servant

CHRISR. BANCKER.

Addressed: Brig. Gen. Samuel B. Webb, Weathersfield.

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<sup>1</sup> The will is printed in *New York Hist. Soc. Collections*, 1904, 176. William Smith was the noted jurist, who died in 1769, without making a will. One of his sons was William Smith the historian. Mrs. Smith was of the Williams family of Wethersfield, and a second wife.



A. M. DE PEYSTER TO MRS. BANCKER.

Maddam:

In the Life Time of Mr. Bancker he employed me to proscute a Mrs. Hannah Cobb for House Rent due to him. I accordingly issued against her at the suit of Mr. Bancker five writs, upon neither of which could she be taken. In doing this I had to advance out my Pocket Money to the Clerk of the Court and the Sheriff, which Money I am still out Pocket. As I am now about endeavoring to settle such Business as was left unsettled previous to the late War, I have taken the Liberty to send you an account of my costs accrued upon the above Business, which I should be much obliged to you indeed to receive by the bearer.

I am, Maddam, Your Humble Servant,

A. M. DE PEYSTER.

QUEENS STREET, No. 156, November 10, 1784.

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MEMORANDUM.<sup>1</sup>

April 22nd, 1775, Marched for Boston, then a Lieut. in an Independent Company.

18th June, 1775, the day after the Battle of Bunkers hill, promoted to the rank of Major and Aid-de-Camp to Majr. Genl. Putnam.

May, 1776, promoted to the rank of Lieut. Colonel, Aid-de-Camp and private Secretary to His Excellency General Washington; with him thro: Jersey, at the Battles of Trenton and Princeton.

January, 1777. Promoted by His Excellency to the

<sup>1</sup> In the ms. of General Webb.

command of a Regiment, and continued untill the disbanding the Army in June, 1783.

Included in that number recommended to Congress by General Washington when he resigned his Commission.

The last campaign was honored with the Command of the Brigade of Light Infantry.

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FROM WINTHROP SARGENT.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Sargent's best regards to his worthy friends, Genl. and Capt. Webb, requests their attention to the inclosed, regrets very much that it has not been in his power to contribute largely to their amusements in this town, but assures them that his sincere wishes have been, are, and shall continue for their pleasure and happiness. Begs leave to present his respects to the family at Weathersfield, and hopes they may be favored in an agreeable journey.

[BOSTON, January, 1785.] Wednesday evening.

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FROM HENRY REMSEN.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Henry Remsen wishes for an opportunity to converse with Genl. Webb at his convenience. Mr. Remsen being obliged to attend the Assembly has it not in his power to spare an hour to wait upon Genl. Webb; but as he is very desirous to see Genl. Webb begs he will be so good

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<sup>1</sup> Soon to become interested with General [Rufus Putnam in the Northwest Territory, of which he was secretary in 1787, and governor, 1798-1801.

<sup>2</sup> One of the representatives in Assembly from the city of New York. Among his colleagues were Aaron Burr, William Denning, Daniel Dunscomb, Peter V. B. Livingston and Comfort Sands.

to call at the Assembly Chamber at any hour between 10 o'clock in the morning and 1 o'clock P. M., or in the afternoon after 3 o'clock.

Tuesday Evening, [New York], February 8th, 1785.

N. B. Mr. Remsen is at home in the morning till 10 O'clock, and between 2 and 3 o'clock P. M., and hopes Genl. Webb will excuse the freedom of his request.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.<sup>1</sup>

[WETHERSFIELD, February 18, 1785.]

Do you reflect on his conduct while our Mother lay a corpse in the House? Do you reflect on his conduct about discharging Camps from the Debt of Brigham's? Pray what Business did He do from April, 1768, to his going to Congress? What has He been about that he has not done the Settlement. He's not to look to me for a Settlement of the Estate. He can apply in his own time and manner.

Let him get good Bondsmen and We will soon find some Method of making a close. His conduct can't possibly deceive you.

What has come into my Hands either J. W— decd— Mr— Decd— S. D., I have kept such Accompts as to shew; but when in his name, the Question is how came they his. Why He says to [*seal*] let my Son be equal with the Rest. in short He knows no [*seal*] With all of his great *Abilities*.

I believe if the Angle Gabriel was to undertake to settle Accots. with such a vulgar Sett, that could throw out the

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<sup>1</sup> A fragment directed against Silas Deane.

Interest, He would have his Hands full. He would be charged with all kind of villany, and must one go thro all this for a vile, Wicked, designing Man?

But while I do undertake I will drive to the Last to get into Notes. I have a long Lawsuit with Sam Curtiss, Jona. Bigelow, and a variety of others; a Lawsuit at Litchfield, one breaking here, one dying insolvent there, nothing can be more disagreeable. I leave you to reflect on the Whole. Yrs. Sincerely.

[*No signature.*]

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JEREMIAH WADSWORTH TO HENRY KNOX.

Dear Sir:

NEW YORK, February 26, 1785.

It is now in contemplation to appoint you Secretary at War. The Salary may possibly be 2500 dollars per annum, which is certainly too small, but small as it is, it will be 500 dollars less, and not worth your acceptance.<sup>1</sup> Our friend Sam B. Webb is here and out of business. His talents you are no stranger to. I think them good, and know he would be glad of the first place under you; and if you should accept with either of the above Salaries they will not maintain you here. Could you not visit occasionally your office here, and leave Webb to execute in your Place, and pursue your schemes in Boston? If you do not accept your recommendation, with the interest Webb could make would obtain the appointment for him. You see I do not apologize beforehand, nor will do it at all. I would not ask a favor of five men in the world for myself or friend, and the number is equally small to whom

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<sup>1</sup> It was fixed at 2,450 dollars, March 4, 1785.

I would be under obligation. Please to present my compliments to Mrs. Knox and love to the children. I am, dear Sir, your sincere friend and servant,

JERE WADSWORTH.

P. S. I shall be at Hartford about the time you receive this.<sup>1</sup>

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

Yours of the 9th instant is the first letter I have had from you this long time. We have all thot. hard of it, for we have been in the disagreeable situation of hope, fear, anxiety and doubt. We heard Mrs. B[ancker] was ill, sometimes dead; but no letters from you or Brother Jack until of late. We are all sincere mourners with you and Aunt Polly. I wish the Good Girl was now *here*. We shall receive her with open arms. Poor Mrs. B[ancker]. I little thot. my last waiting of her down to Chester's would be the last sight of the Good Lady. How transitory and vain are all earthly things, yet how little do we realize it, how soon forget. A few days and it must be said of us, Why he was *So* & *So*, and forgot. A thousand and a thousand reflections rushes in at once to make me gloomy. Tell Aunt Polly Mrs. W[ebb] would write her but she cant write yet, but will so soon as she can. She most sensibly

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<sup>1</sup> From the *Knox Papers* in the New England Historic Genealogical Society. In his reply, dated March 10, Knox said: "I love Webb, and should be happy to have the power to serve him, more especially when requested by you, for whom I have the most unequivocal friendship."

Writing again on April 30, Wadsworth said: "I sincerely wish Webb may have some appointment. If Carleton resigns, I think Webb will suit you."



feels the loss of Our Dear Dear Mrs. B[ancker]. I feel extremely anxious about the property. Do you think the business was well done? What does Doct. Johnson say in confidence? You had better shew him the papers and consult with him. Depend on it, if they can they will give you trouble. Consult with the Doctor, shew him the deeds. I have many reasons for it. I have seen J[eremiah] W[adsworth] twice since his return. He appears quite attentive and polite. I can't but think he's much [more] the friend of S[ilas] D[eane] than ours, but perhaps I injure him. So I shall take no notice until I see you. I now come to the part of your letter that distresses me exceedingly. I see no way at present. I will write you soon but it distresses me beyond description. Can't Erklen help you, and Brother Jack to half the debt, and secure the rest? What says he to Capt Webb? My heart is good, so is my mind, will, and everything but purse.

I inclose a small sketch of our landed situation, mortgages, &c., but they command no money. My situation is truly distressing. I have too much business, and all seems to no advantage or but trifling — as to myself.

The debts trouble me, the lands above all are troublesome beyond description. Burnham harrasses me in the law. I must soon meet Judge Wolcott, Esq. Lee and Treadwell, who is a committee appointed on our affair. I hope to baffle him, but it's tedious. Old Carter's mortgage to our Mother I fear will prove an entailment and we lose it. I have a sea of *Troubles* with those old neglects of S. D[eane]. I am sued to Litchfield, an old *war* affair of S Deane's. I have my hands full but I will endeavor to push them. I have had no visitors at my house since

Br. Jack left us. I renounce company as much as possible.  
I am sincerely Yr. Afft. Br.

J. W.

Sunday Evening, March 13th, 1785.

P. S. I have many letters to write; my eyes rather weak. I cant even look over and correct. After you read it correct and make the necessary stops for fear some person may see it. Amos Bull lives in the house of S. D[eane]. Appears to be a good neighbor. You must know Mr. Henry Deming. Returned last Sunday. I saw him at church. I asked him if he brot. me letters. No. But he said Mrs. B[ancker] was dead. G[ood] God, said I, I never heard she was ill. He then said afterwards he did not know she was dead, but from what he heard she was. Thus for some days, and indeed until I saw Wadsworth, was our suspense.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York. Per Major John Wyllys.

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

HARTFORD, March 13, 1785.

Dear Sir:

I have your favor of the 9th March. The matter in Congress ended as I expected. Knox will accept.<sup>1</sup> You must look out for something else. When he comes on he will call on me. I will then try him for you; he is disposed to serve you, so says his letter to me. Apply to Shaler to raise the money for Governor's bill. I will let your broth-

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<sup>1</sup> The Secretaryship at War. Webb had been suggested for the place, and had only Knox as a real competitor.

ers know your distresses, but I have little hope. It is not possible for me to supply you with 1000 dollars at present, nor can I put out money to ly longer than Church's arrival, as my friends have pressed me so hard that I have lent all the partnership money, and must absolutely refund it in June so that whatever money I furnish you cant ly beyond that time. Those of your securities that are in your own name you ought not to sell; but such as you have purchased are like other papers, and may as well be sold as kept. Shaler may furnish you to pay Governor's bill and take your note to Wadsworth and Church, whose money he must pay it out of. I will write you more fully next week. Say nothing about my opinion that Knox will accept, or that I have wrote on your subject. I am Dr. Webb, sincerely your friend.

J. WADSWORTH

You may lodge any securities you please in trust with N. S[haler] for W. & C.

Addressed: General Webb, New York.

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FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, March 17th, 1785.

Dear Sam:

We were very unhappy last evening on receipt of yours of the 10th giving us the melancholy account that Mrs. Bancker was no more. The suddenness of her departure, without (to us) the least intimation of her indisposition, was the more afflicting; but so are the ways of Heaven, "Dark and intricate" to mortals who see but a little way, And when I reflect on that happy situation, which I have

no doubt awaits the virtuous hereafter, I envy all those who like Mrs. Bancker leave a wel-grounded hope behind them; and on any rational plann, (such are the troubles of life,) tis a happiness to leave the world, before the world leaves us. I mean before old age gives a keener edge to every calamity, and blunts that of every enjoyment which is the too common lot of advanced life. For Aunt Polly we feel sensibly. Such friendship as I hear subsisted between the Sisters, was never formed to end in time, and I sincerely wish her that support which God alone can give, and which he is ever ready to afford to those that love him. I confess much of the happiness I promised myself by a visit to N. York is by this providence; forever debarred; but remember tis but a little while and the virtuous shall meet *to part no more forever*; certainly a perswasion of this truth must be more than a balance for every ill in life. Hetty and Sally join in our best wishes for your happiness and in affectionate condolence with Aunt Polly, who we should all of us be very happy to see in Boston.

As to my horses, I want them as soon as you can conveniently send them, and I leave it to you to do it in the way you think best. If you send them to Providence, let them be to the care of Mr. George Benson, Mercht. there, with a letter to send them on by the post, unless a private hand he can depend on. I wish you to settle the account with Henry Livingston and take his note for the balance, which if paid in May will do; but I want to enter it as settled in my book. If you are sure Campbell and Huntington are at Quebec send the notes to some friend you can depend on, to recover from the rascals. I cant conceive for what the Attorney has charged you two guineas, for keeping the note, which I fear is worth nothing.



I am, with love to Jack if he is with you, Dr. Sam, yr  
Affect. Friend and Bro.,

JOSEPH BARRELL.

Addressed: Samuel B. Webb, Merchant, New York. Per post.

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

HARTFORD, March 20, 1785.

Dear Webb:

I visited your Brother last week to tel him your wants. He replied, you see how impossible it is "for me to do anything." I told him I had hopes of borrowing of Mr. P. Jones two or three hundred pounds for you; as I was about paying that sum to him I believed he would chuse to have it out on interest. He made no reply. My wish was that he would have offered to give his note for it. In that case I should have given Jones my security privately, and held your public papers as my security. But he said no more. I have not yet obtained an answer from Jones, but hope in a day or two. He liked the matter at first but he seems now rather to be backward. If I obtain it I shall ask Jos to give his note for it. Write me on this subject. I have just received a letter from General Knox. He accepts the appointment, and will be at New York the 12th of March. Your friends here are all well. My compliments to your brothers and all friends. I am, dear sir, Your Kind and H Srvt.,

JERE. WADSWORTH.

Addressed: To General Webb, New York.



## FROM SARAH BARRELL.

Dear Brother:

BOSTON, April 11th, 1785.

We received your Melancholy letter giving an account of the sudden Death of our friend Mrs. Banker. I never was more surprized, and truly sorry for good Aunt Polly's lonely situation. Hetty and myself pity, and mourn for you both, as it must renew the great loss of our dear Betsy whom unknown I really loved, and shall ever respect her Memory. I hope you do not indulge grief to prey on you, but behave more like a Christian. Remember that after a few short years we shall join the beloved circle that has gone before. While they are at rest we must toil on, and endure pain and disappointment, the common Lot of Mortals. I have had my share of the bitter cup, yet I hope to see many good Days yet, If my dear Brothers lived near me I should be much happier, the Distance is much too great. Wish it was for your Interest to come and spend the remainder of your days in Boston. Your constitution is frail, and I am anxious that you do not take good [care] of yourself. The gentlemen live too gay a Life for you in York, their customs are disagreeable. However a sensible Man is not obliged to follow those that are injurious to his health. I shall expect that you will in the course of the Summer make us a Visit and bring Aunt Polly. I shall bid her welcome and endeavour to make her happy. I wish you would write me more frequent, and keep alive that tender affection that we always have felt for each other, and I sincerely hope may continue as long as Life. Mr. Barrell and my littel ones are in health. This evening I received a letter from Josey Barrell in Lisbon. He desired to be remembered to you

and Brother Jack. I have nothing new to acquaint you of. General Knox, who is the bearer of this, can inform you more than I can. My best wishes attend you all; good night my peace be with you.

Your affectionate Sister,

SARAH BARRELL.

Mr. and Mrs Graham <sup>1</sup> are going to the Southard; they leave this place sometime this week. When they arrive at York I wish you would notice them, as they were polite enough to call for our Commands. S. BARRELL.

Addressed: Mr. Sam. B. Webb, New York. By General Knox.

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MARIA HENRIETTA STABLES TO SARAH BANCKER.

Madam:

I wrote you the 15th of May last, in answer to yours, wherein I told you I should draw on you for three Hundred Pounds, in two Bills — one at Sixty Days sight, the other at Ninety; I have been very favourable to you, in drawing for so small a sum, — so large a one being due to me; you say the Lands are now lett in defferent Farms; and I am informed for this two Years past they have been Cultivated; therefore you are now inabled to pay me part of the long arrears due to me. Mr. Bancker was represented to me as a Man of Large property, and unblemish't Character, I dare say Mr. Neave found him so — or he would not have proposed my sinking the Money with him. I hope Mr. Neave & Son will be with you before the Bills

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<sup>1</sup> Catharine Macauley Graham, of England, whose visit to the United States attracted no little attention.

become due; as Trustee for me they have a Power to settle with you;

I am Madam your Hume. Servt.,

H. M. STABLES.

WALTON UPON THAMES, SURREY, May 30th, 1785.

Addressed: Mrs. Sarah Bancker, widow of the late Mr. Richard Bancker, Merchant, of New York, America.

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FROM WINTHROP SARGENT.

Dear Webb:

BOSTON, June 1st, 1785.

A young friend of mine is gone on to Philadelphia and Baltimore by water, and returns through York to this place. He is a son of Mr. Sargent, of about 21 years, and tho' he has never before been from home is I think an accomplished lad. I believe you saw him when you was last in this place. I have given him a line to Clarkson and Platt, and should have wrote to you by him but that he was in haste and intended introducing him in this way. Will you be so obliging as to introduce him to some of our worthy friends, Ladies and Gentlemen, I will esteem it a favor. Believe me sincerely yours,

W. SARGENT.

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LANDS NEAR CROWN POINT, NEW YORK.

No. 1. — A Deed given by Sir Henry Moore, Governor and Captain General of the Province of New York, to John Curten who had served in his Majesty's 48th Regiment of Foot, for 200 acres of land, in the County of Albany, lying on the east side of Lake Champlain, distinguished in a map by Lot No. One hundred and Twenty-Three, given

and signed by the said Governor Moore in the City of New York, the 30th day of June 1766.

No. 2 — John Curten's Lease and Release to John Watson of the above named 200 acres of land, dated New York, the 9th and 10th day of July 1771.

No. 3 — John Watson's Deed of Sale to Richard Bancker for the above named 200 acres of land, dated the 14th day of June, 1769.

No. 4. — One Deed of 50 acres of land given by Jeddediah Ferris to John Watson, lying on the east side of Lake Champlain, and distinguished by Lot. No. 32, lying about five and a half miles north from Crown point. Said deed is dated the 30th day of November 1768.

No. 5. — One other Deed from Jeddediah Ferris to John Watson for 50 acres of land, known and distinguished by Lot No. 67, dated the 30th day of March, 1769.

New York, 6th June 1785. I do acknowledge to have received from Saml. B. Webb the above described Deeds and Leases for the purpose of examining into the situation of the lands, and that they are his property, to be delivered him so soon as I have made the necessary inquiries about the state of the lands.

WM. BLODGET.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

I think you are now indebted to me not less than several letters, but for some reason you have wholly neglected writing of me. If its done with design I wish to know it. Altho it seems extremely odd, yet I will not at present harbor such a disagreeable sentiment; but I must beg you to



put me out of suspense, and write me in your old friendly brotherly stile. I have expected you here long before this with *Aunt Polly*; both Mrs. Webb and I shall be happy to see you so soon as you can make it convenient.

Write me per the return of the post about those goods that were sent you by Simpson.<sup>1</sup> I wish you would write me particular about his orders. Jonathan is now in the country, and demands for those Cursed Goods the Hard Cash and the Interest — so for the Monies I have Collected to keep His Estate from Confiscation. I think we shall differ. Jonathan is a little Hotspur that must be Cooled down.

I am full of Business to get a full settlement of all those old affairs. Do tell me how you find Mrs. *Bancker's* estate. I hope not much Involved or *troublesome*. What has been your Delay for not coming this way? Brother Jack is now at Middletown, and has thoughts of going on to *Quebec*. I think He will have an agreeable jaunt. Stephen Chester, Tommy Leverett, both are going. I wish it may open a Door of Proffitable Trade. We have two small vessels that will sail this week. I am quite anxious about some Bills in the Hands of Mr. Atkinson. I feel the delays will make me loose my Monies. I wish you would Call on Mr. Atkinson and give him a Receipt for the Bills and forward me, that I may arrange them and forward by the first good Opportunity to England. I am Dear Brother  
Yr Most Affectionate Br., JOS. WEBB.

[WETHERSFIELD,] June 27th, 1785

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York.

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<sup>1</sup> John Simpson. See p. 13, *supra*. Jonathan was his son by a first wife.



FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, July 5th, 1785.

Dear Brother:

For Heaven's sake keep me no longer in suspense. Write me you mean to neglect me, or write me one line you do not mean it. I believe you are in debt not less than half a dozen letters. Upon my word I can make no reasonable excuse for you, but I am too fond a Brother to give up that its meant. I am conscious I do not deserve it. Brother Jack is gone to Quebec in company with Leverett, Stephen Chester, [and] Wait Goodrich. I wish him success. Our adventure is about four or five hundred consequence, half his'n and half mine. I wrote him he might take the whole; or if I did not hear from him, I should consider our concern jointly and severally. I hope he may do well. [Miles] Sherbrooke is now at New London; will be at New Haven on Saturday. Leaves New Haven on Tuesday for Horse-neck. When are you coming this way with Aunt Polly? If you wish, and you come by water to New Haven, I will send my carriage for you. Indeed I hope I shall meet you at New Haven next week, where I have thoughts of going for the health of my good *Mrs. Webb*, who is as thin as you ever saw. I wish you would call on Atkinson and get up my bills. He asks for his brother's receipt. I cannot find one, but I must get you to give one in my behalf. I shall lose by delay, perhaps a total loss if I do not attend it; therefore you see of the consequence. Forward it per the first opportunity. Will you write me the price current with you. Your affectionate Br.,

JOS. WEBB.

What says friend McEvers since his return? What is Congress about? Is there not an opening for you? What

are your prospects? Will you consent to let me know all these affairs, and do you meet with any difficulties with the heirs of your late Mrs. W——.<sup>1</sup> Will you forward your instruments to Col. Chester?

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York.

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FROM RICHARD CARY, JUNIOR.

ST. CROIX, 8 July, 1785.

My dear friend:

This is just to advise you that I wrote you last week by Captain Campbell, in answer to your several favors. I also wrote Mrs. Cary by the same Opportunity. I expect to finish my Crop by the last of next week, and shall embark for N. York or Boston in about 20 Days, I hope. Capt. Lowndes is getting under way, so God bless you.

My love to all friends. Yours very cordially,

RICHARD CARY, JUNIOR.

Capt. Campbell was in a Brig bound to N. York.

Addressed: Brigadier General Samuel B. Webb, New York. Favored by Capt. Lowndes.

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FROM HENRY LIVINGSTON.

MANOR LIVINGSTON, Aug. 10, 1785.

Dear General:

I was under the necessity of leaving New York some days sooner than I did intend, by which means I found it

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<sup>1</sup> July 15, 1785, administration was granted to Webb on the estate of Richard Bancker, as Sarah, the executrix under the merchant's will, died before the estate was settled.

impossible to collect monies sufficient to make a payment to you at the time intended; neither could I sell flour for any price that was a saving one, to raise monies for you; but be assured you shall be paid both principal and interest as soon as possible. I am with sentiments of true Respect  
Your friend,

HENRY LIVINGSTON.

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FROM DQ. DEBARTZCHY.

FORT SCHUYLER, August 28th, 1785.

Dear Sir:

Your Packet of the 18th by Mr. Dawson I received; am much indebted for your excuses in my favor and hope they may succeed. I shall leave this place today. Shall write you from Oswego. Please make my compliments to Mrs. Dunscomb and family, Baron Steuben, Coll. [Nicholas] Fish, Major North and Major [John Francis] Hamtranck. I am Your friend and Humbl Servt.,

DQ. DEBARTZCHY.

Genl. Webb. Pr. favor Dr. Elliot.

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FROM JONATHAN FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

BOSTON, 3rd October, 1785.

Dear Webb:

Yours by Saturday's post I received. I can only say I wish you had been in the way to purchase the articles I wrote for; they would have answered well at the price I quoted. Business seems at present very dull, and I dont know of any article between this and your market worth

attention. Speculations of every kind between this place and York depend entirely in expedition.

I have thoughts of going either to one of the Carolinas or Jamaica. I have received advantageous proposals respecting both, but am not certain which to accept. Shall write you more particularly when I have made up my mind. In the meantime with respects, compt. and Love *where due*, I remain, Dr Webb, Your Friend, &c.,

JONATHAN FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

N. B. *Remember*, never tuck a little bit of paper in your Letter again if you would save double Postage. — *Economy*

Addressed: Samuel B. Webb, Merchant, New York.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

LIVINGSTONS MANNOR, 3rd October, 1785.

My Dear Brother:

I arrived here yesterday from Albany, where I was detained a few days by our mutual friend, Col. Henry Livingston, who I came here with by water. I left Quebec the 13th September, at which place I arrived after having fifty-eight days passage from New London. The particulars of my Tour I will refer till I have the happiness of seeing you, which I hope will be soon in Weathersfield. I go from this to Salisbury this week, to examine our property at that place, and I am determined to devote this fall and winter to the settlement of our estate.

The Estate you had to settle I hope is closed, and your mind must be much more at ease.

Remember me Affectionately to Aunt P[oll]y and to all

my friends with you, who I wish to see exceedingly, but Business will not admit. I shall be anxious to hear from you on my arrival at our Brothers, and I must request you not to let me be disappointed.

I must request you to remember me very particularly to our worthy friends Mr. and Mrs. Sherbrook. The latter I hope has perfectly recovered her health. If you can by any means procure me a well broke pointer you will render me a very essential service by sending him to Weathersfield. Our friend Jack Shaw<sup>1</sup> has one that was Beach's, which I think he will give you.

I am yours affectionately,

JOHN WEBB.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

NEW HAVEN, 17th October, 1785.

My Dear Brother:

Some matters of Business has oblig'd my coming on as farr as Horseneck, at which place I expect to continue two or three days. I leave this very early tomorrow morning. I arrived from Quebec to my Brothers on wensday last after a very fatigueing jant. I found Mrs. W[ebb] was very much disappointed that Aunt P[olly] had not been there. I expected to have found her there. My inclination leads me to *New York*, but business prevents me from comeplying. I must request you to remember me particularly to Aunt P. and the family you are with, and to our worthy Circle in the City. I expect you will

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<sup>1</sup> In 1799 John Shaw had a house on Pearl Street.



write me very particularly by the first opportunity. I am very desirous of seeing a long letter from you. I should write you more fully, but as the Stages are very uncertain I shall only ask you a few questions. Did you receive a letter from me dated at the Mannor of Livingston? Who are those that are giving you trouble respecting the Estate? You must be particular in remembering me to my most worthy and Amiable friend N. S.<sup>1</sup> Esq. also to the *one* in Smith's — and Bd. Way. I have a vast many things to say, but will omit them till we meet. When that will be, god only knows. If Aunt P. will come out in the Stage I shall be at Horseneck and will accompany her. Write if you can by the return of the Stage. May every Happiness attend you is the sincere wish of your friend,  
J. W.

Excuse this scrawl. What are the Grand Counsel doing?

Addressed: Genl. Saml. B. Webb, No. 4 Great Dock Street, New York. Favored by Doctr. Eustice.

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FROM JOHN DUYCKINCK.

NEW BRUNSWICK, October the 24th, 1785.

Dear Sir:

I received your favor of the 19. inst. and am sorry that any misunderstanding should be relative to the Mills. I very plainly told you that I would take the Mills on four yearly payments at fourteen hundred pounds, York Currency, begining first of May next, on consideration that

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<sup>1</sup> Shaler.

I could know immediately, that I might have had time to repair the House and have moved my Family this fall. Although a greater price than they are worth, this was the motive that induced me to offer that very extraordinary price; for if I had have given a greater price than the Mill possibly was worth, I would have been the gainer, by having my Family together. I do assure you upon my honor that I think by continuing at the Mills since the war on the uncertainty that I have had them, has been at least five hundred pounds damage, which has caused me to promise myself to have nothing to do with them, and have made up my mind to purchas a Mill some where else. I did on fryday last purchase a Mill within one mile of this place, but to my great mortification the person declined at the time the writings where to have been executed. I still expect in the course of next week that the bargain will be compleated. I wish you had a good price for your mills. I have always did whatever was in my power to sell them, and have endeavoured to raise the value of them. Notwithstanding I ofered you that great price, if you recolect, I recommended that you ought to have sold them to Mr. Wallace at the time he ofered twelve hundred pounds, and I now recomend it you that if you are ofered one thousand pounds, not to wait to know if it suits this one or the other one, but immediately determine your bargain and shake them from you. I know the general voice of the People is that if you get nine hundred pounds for your mills it is the extent of their value, although my opinion is more. However as you wish me to keep charge of your Mills untill May next I will do it, although I do not expect to be their, or do any business at them. I wish that you had have been more particular with respect to the bolts,

screens, &c. because I shall want the bolts, &c. at this place, and will be sorry to take them out of the Mills, because others must be placed before business can be done. Besides it will have an odd appearance, notwithstanding it will not suit me to purchase others before I know certain weather you take them or not. I will do everything in power to your interest with respect to the Mills.

You have been kind enough to write of Mr. Oberle. I herewith send you the several accounts of the flour and proceeds of the wheat taken and belonging to Evert and John Duyckinck out of Mr. Abraham Van Nest's Mills, as also my affidavits, which will through light and freshen the memory of Mr. Oberle, as also other affidavits. Perhaps he may give a certificate, which if he does let it be given in the name of John Duyckinck, surviving partner of Evert. If it is to be antedated, then in the name of Evert and John. I wish you to write of Mr. Oberle immediately, that the same papers here sent may be returned with the same boat, Capt. Vorhees, or anything that may be agreed between Mr. Oberle and yourself. I am with every respect your sincere friend and Humble Servant,

JOHN DUYCKINCK.

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FROM JOHN LIVINGSTON.

Mr. John Livingston requests the favor of Genl Webb's company to dinner on Saturday next at 4 o'clock.

Wednesday Noon

[NEW YORK, January, 1786.]

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

WETHERSFIELD, January 1st, 1786.

Not one line have I received from either you or Brother Jack; to me it appears extremely odd. Just after you left me Maj. Edwd. Bulkley call'd to see you; thinks extremely hard of you; says you owe him a Sum of Mony which you promised payment long before this. He was hurt, said he had always been your first and fast friend. He was told by Numbers at the first *they would* answer. He would think otherway before you had done with *Him*. I told him, I never knew you owed him a farthing; I wisht him to suspend every hard thought untill he saw you. You would, I engaged, do him strict Justice. In short I soften'd him down and made matters easy for the present, but He thinks hard of you. If agreeable, I wish you would write me how matters are between you, and where you have fail'd of your promises to him. Your last visit here was such a flying visit, that it seems more like a Dream than a reality that you have been with us. I wish it had been consistent with your Business to have staid with us longer. What shall be done, my Good Brother, to fill my *Tan Yards* with Hides? Once fill'd would be something genteel for my family *for Life*. Can you help me to get a quantity from the *Havana*? How great is your consequence? Can it be done? Consult with Brother *Jack*. Its of much and serious consequence to us as a family. Once fill'd will make us all hold up our Heads. If I have friends, now is the time *to help me*. Write me a long circumstantial letter. Will McEvers help or not? Jemmy has been with me this day and taken *New Year's dinner*. Where is Mrs. Sherry? Where is Mr. Sherbrooke and all our friends? Your sister



Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Bull, and all the Circle desire love. Little Betsy *Bancker* say Yes, Uncle Sam (all that we [can] make the little puss say). All the children are hearty and well. Have you good sleighing in New York? Write me fully and often. Let Br. Jack see this; tell him not to forget me but do the needful. You must accept my thanks for your paying Mr. Lott. I wish when you or Brother Jack answer my letters, you would endeavor to answer them by looking over my letter of the time, and answer it as particular as possible. A—— has been a series of uneasiness since you left us, but its again smooth weather. Tell Brother Jack some Cheap Breakfast *Tea* will please, but I do not love to ask him. He's a kind indulgent ready and obliging Br. whenever its in his power. A little good parchment and some Vellum will not come amiss when he comes home. All the family desire their most tender and affectionate regards to you and H [*seal*]. Yrs Sincerely,  
J WEBB.

If possible get out of J. W[adsworth's] Debt; its the soonest way to get him to help.

Sunday Evening, Jany. 1, 1786.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York, Per Cap. Fowler.

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JOSEPH WEBB TO JOHN WEBB.

Dear Brother:

Accept my thanks for your Letter. I did intend to come to York with Mrs. W[ebb], but I shall wait for the explanation of your letter. Write me per the return of this post. Its true I owe Mony in [New] York, but shurly



[to] no one that would hurt me. What do you mean? What do you allude to? I do not wish to come to be insulted attached or touched. I thought it would be of service to go and chatt with them, and tell them what I was about, and push for a Quantity of Hides. A Quantity of Hides, a thousand pounds worth, would be a resort for a something for all our family; its of amazing consequence. Should McEvers help me to three or four thousand Hides, how soon after I could pay him and all other my Debts in 18 months after I should receive the Hides. I should be able to pay Every farthing I owe in the world. Write me fully for you make me anxious. Yrs Sincerely,

[No signature.]

January 9th, '86.

Yr Sister W[ebb] and all desire to be remembered to you most affectionately.

Addressed: To Capt. John Webb, to the Care of Mr. John Alsop, South Street, New York. Per Doct. Cutler.

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SARAH WICKHAM<sup>1</sup> TO MRS. RICHARD MORRIS.<sup>2</sup>

Dear Mrs. Morris:

I presume to ask the favor of your Slay for two hours this afternoon (knowing your readiness to oblige).

Fan wishes to Call on Mrs. Williams, Mrs. [Henry] Knox,

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<sup>1</sup> Wife of William Wickham of New York.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Morris was a judge of the New York Supreme Court of Judicature, and lived in the city. He was a member of the State convention to ratify the Constitution of the United States. Soon after 1802 he removed to Claverack, Columbia County, whither Webb also retired. The son, Robert Hunter Morris, was long prominent in New York politics.

Miss Vanburch, and several others, as a part of each of their families have been here today. And as your daughter I flatter myself you feel interest'd. And be assur'd no person will be more watchfull to return the obligation than your friend,

SARAH WICKHAM.

[NEW YORK, January 30, 1786.]

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FROM WILLIAM WICKHAM.

Mr. Wickham would rejoice at an opportunity of showing Mr. Wadsworth every Respect, and would have delivered him a Ticket this morning, if he had thought himself at liberty to have done it by the Rules of the Assembly. He has spoke of the matter today. If Gen. Webb is of a different opinion, Mr. Wickham would be glad to see him on the subject.

[NEW YORK, February, 1786.]

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AN INVITATION.<sup>1</sup>

Messrs. Kean, Lee and Hindman<sup>2</sup> present their Compliments to Genl. Webb, and will do themselves the Honor of waiting upon him at Dinner tomorrow.

[March 3d, 1786]

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<sup>1</sup> See a volume of invitations printed as *Some Social Notes addressed to Samuel Blachley Webb, 1776-1791*.

<sup>2</sup> Members of Congress.

FROM NATHANIEL SHALER.

Dear Webb:

As the weather is, and as things *now stand*, is it intended to go to the Island this day? If so what hour are we to assemble for the purpose? Your not sending for the Trunk makes me conclude you intend to do without it.

If you see D—— before me, kiss her hand for (but nothing further). Your old friend,

N. SHALER.

Friday Mng 10 o'clock

[NEW YORK, March, 1786.]

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 FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 12th March, 1786.

Dear B[rother]:

What can be the reason of your long silence? I have been extremely anxious to hear from you ever since the last letter, which gave me information that there was a prospect that all kinds of Public securities must fall; nor do I know whether you have received the Notes I forwarded you. For should they not have answered at that time with you, they would have fetch'd 3/ immediately in Boston, tho' I am confident that you will do everything that ought to be done. I am the more anxious on the Acct. of drawing on you, for should they not be sold it might put you to some inconvenience. I have been able to put off some of the people for ten days longer, but at the end of that time they must be paid. I almost begin to think that my evil genius is determined that I shall not be prosper'd in any of my concerns. I intend trying to send you and my friend N. Shaler a salmon by the next stage.

You see that the fairest prospects are sometimes blasted. I had promised myself from our late plan some success, but its like many other promises I have made.

Never was there a person so completely unhappy in their situation as I am in mine — neither Business, Pleasure, no any one person that I may make myself happy by conversing for an hour. This join'd with my stock of paciencies, and my natural happy and contented turn of mind join'd all together, make me completely happy, as you would judge should you see me. I have just heard from Boston that commutation is upon the rise, that they are selling from 3/ to 3/6. I think there ought some money to be immediately sent me. I am sorry that I did not send them to Boston, tho' I am convinc'd that they must rise. I could have purchased them at 2/2 since the news from New York. Our friend Colo. Platt I am shure will do everything that is cleaver. He may depend that I will do the Business as much to his and your Satisfaction as in my power. I have heard that Major Warner sold the rest of his yesterday for 2/9. Do my good Brother be very particular in writing me by every conveyance that will not cost too much.

March 18th.

I received your letter by our friend D. Wadsworth, and the small supply of money; tho small, it came very acceptable. I am confident that the commutation must rise, as it has of late taken a rise in Boston.<sup>1</sup> I wish you in your

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<sup>1</sup> At this time there was much speculation in the various forms of notes, bills and promises, which had been issued by the Continent and States during the war, for the payment of the troops and purchase of supplies. Fortunes were made and lost, and the many forms of paper gave every opportunity for taking chances.

answers be more particular, tho' I think I have said every thing in my power on this subject. You must tell our friend Platt that at the time I purchas'd those Notes that Brunson, Fowler, Pomeroy, Buttler and many others, were bidding on each other; but that if he enters into any contract, he may depend on my doing everything in my power for our mutual interests. I sent Peter to Windsor on Saturday, but was not able to get a salmon; but the first I can, shall be sent to you and my good friend N. S[haler]. I am a little surprised that he has not wrote me a line since I left New York.

You have never acknowled'd the receipt of all the Notes sent you. I sent by Mr. D. Hinsdale 482 20/90, by Mr. Grant 543 66/90, by Post 1264 72/90, by young Mr. Belden 114 Dollars. I think before this they must have taken a rise. Do push to send me some mony. I find that Miss Denning has wrote our neighbors that Miss Alsop is to be married to King,<sup>1</sup> the member of Congress, in six weeks. Women's truths. I wish you could find a few hours to sacrafice to your friend and Brother. If you lay out eighteen or twenty Dollars for a pr. Ladies stone shoe Buckles, you can send them by Capt. John Wright. You must pay yourself for the trouble to purchase them. Its very extraordinary that our friend James<sup>2</sup> does not pay that Acct. I wish you to push him; also to push Thompson. You say nothing respecting the public matters left in your hands. It's given great pleasure to all the Gentlemen in this state that the matter of Paper mony is fallen through.

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<sup>1</sup> Rufus King, who married, March 31, 1786, Mary, only daughter of John Alsop. An account of the wedding is in *Life and Correspondence of Rufus King*, I, 130 n.

<sup>2</sup> Seagrove.



I can turn your Certificates into something should you send them me, tho' they are from 9/ to 10/. I can turn them better than that for you. You may depend that you had not better keep them for any length of time. You had better send them me with your Notes from this State by Wright. Perhaps it will be agreeable to Jemmy to send me one Hhd. loaf sugar, one-half of single Refined and the other double. It must not be shipt as loaf sugar. My Br[other], and Sister W[ebb] are very unwell and confind to their Rooms. They desire their love to you and Aunt P[olly.] I join and say may every happiness be your lott.

J. W.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Wensday Evening, 29th March, 1786.

My Dear Brother:

You cannot imagine to what trouble I been put to by your not sending me the mony. This day I had to borrow fifty pounds to pay the drafts which were out. Nor must you think odd of my repeating so frequently that I can do nothing accept I have the mony. I could this day have taken one thousand Dollars had I cash; but there are now twenty agents purchasing them here, some from Boston, Rode Island and New York. I have been ever since Monday to Coalchester, and for the want of cash have only purchased three hundred forty-three and one-half dollars, which has taken all the mony I had and that I could borrow. I am afraid that it will [be] no object for three. At present it is not I am shure, for one-third of the profits of my last purchase will not pay my expence. They come

at 2/6 on the pound, tho I have lain a plan to purchase a quantity more should the mony come on in season. You will receive this by a very honest fellow by name Willard, who ses that he will deliver it with his own hands.

You no that everything depends on a young fellow's first setting out in Business, that he is very punctual in keeping his word. Do ennoble me to do that. I am so exceedingly fatigu'd that I am not able to send to Hartford to know whether I have any letters from you by this stage. I wish you to ask the Post Master Genl.<sup>1</sup> in New York to put your letters into the Midleton packet, as there Mr. Hobby is always polite enough to forward them to me, which makes me able to answer your letters by the return of stage that brings them, and saves the trouble of sending to Hartford. Should you have it in your power to answer my long scrawls particularly, you will oblige me by doing it. If you can purchase those Buckles for Chester and send them by the bearer, I can receive the mony here. I think if you will examine at what price this State mony is to be purchased at, and the other kinds of securities, we can make something of consiquence to us.

Do you intend to Petition the Genl. Assembly in May respecting our Estate. If so, there ought something to be done immediately. Remember me to all our Circle of friends. If your matters will permit you to execute the little commission I have requested, you will render me great service. The Family are much better in health than when I last wrote. I am with unalterable Esteem and Affection yours,

JOHN W.

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<sup>1</sup> Ebenezer Hazard, who held the office from 1782 to 1789.

P. S. I am told that they are at a loss to find some Lady to say once more that you are attentive too. May every happiness attend you. Tell friend Morris God bless him, and that I hope he has secure'd the old Lady well under ground.<sup>1</sup>

Addressed: General Saml. B. Webb, att No. 24 little Queen Street, New York. Favor'd by Mr. Willard, who is desired to deliver it himself.

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FROM RICHARD PLATT.

Dear Sir:

I send by Bearer One Hundred Dollars. Next week I hope to be strong in Cash; and if so will advance freely. Pray tell Brother Jack to seize all the Finals he possibly can from 2/4 to 2/6 and 2/7. I think they will rise in a few days considerably.

Yours, &c.

RICHARD PLATT.

April 8th [1786]. 10 A. M.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 9th April, 1786.

Dear Brother:

I received your short letter dated at Mr. Alsop's the last evening, and am happy to find that you enjoy yourself so well. This match to me seems if it was soon hatch'd, for if I mistake not, Mr. King did not visit there while I

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<sup>1</sup> The reference is not clear. The mother of Gouverneur Morris, Sarah, had died late in 1785 or in January, 1786; but the relations between the Webbs and that family were not close. Perhaps Robert Morris is intended.

was in the City. I sincerely wish it may be a happy one, particularly on the account of our most worthy Friend, the father of the Lady, who is deserving of all the good that man can enjoy here or hereafter. I am inform'd that they intend paying Boston a visit, and soon. I find that the female who came out of town with [me] is not a little disappointed at this connection, tho' I think the reasons are obvious. Perhaps a little self interest may be at the bottom of this. I have not a doubt but the *friends* had promis'd that they should be gratified in seeing her connected with a certain person at the Bank. I find that the part that our worthy little friend Abby took did not please the persons here, nor that in Wall street; tho' I am very happy that their expectations have been Blasted, and that our friend has shone her self a person of judgment by her Choice. My particular Compliments to the Circle at the Wedder house, and to all that think proper to enquire after me.

I was a little anxious about the letter that you mention of receiving. I am at present prevented from purchasing for the want of Cash. For the last I sent you I got the mony from my friend Mr. Daniel Smith, in whose favor I have drawn on you for Fifty pounds Lawfull mony, and should he want more I wish you to advance him, as there is no person in this country who is more punctual. He has been extremely civil to me. I din'd with him yesterday. Miss Clary Alsop is now at his house, and has been for this six weeks.

I drew on you in favor of Ezekiel P. Belden <sup>1</sup> for a small sum, which I hope was answer'd on sight. No person will

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<sup>1</sup> Of Wethersfield. He had been a captain in Sheldon's Light Dragoons, resigning from the service in June, 1780.



be more attentive than myself to our Business, but only put the means in my hands. Indeed I have been oblig'd to give a little extra on the Acct. of not having Cash. When your hurry of Business is over I wish you to cast your eye over my letters, and that you would answer those parts you shall think necessary. Genl. Person made his appearance at Hartford yesterday. Pomeroy ses that Congress will have some important offices to give soon for the Western country. I hope you may not be neglected; for should you have an appointment I hope I shall not be forgot, for it's a matter of indifference to what country I go. I shall be hourly expecting a long scrawl and the particulars of your friend's late connection. I am anxious to hear how long after I left Town the visits began. I shall send you a salmon for you and our friends. Our Friend Shaler must share it with you. I wish it had been in my power to have sent one before, but you must not think it has been through a mistake. Do, my good Brother, write Silas Deane respecting our Estate. It's a matter you ought to pay attention to for all anything else — by doing it you will much oblige me. I have wrote you so much that I think it's unnecessary for me to add anything more. I only request you if Inclination or Business will admit, I wish you to answer my scrawls. Believe me to be with immense affection your brother,

JNO. WEBB.

P. S. My brother sends one of those Salmon and requests you to divide it between Garry Beekman, and Mr. Sherbrook, and Charles McEvers.<sup>1</sup> [*Seal*] must have one

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<sup>1</sup> Two brothers, James and Charles McEvers, were in business in New York before the Revolution as importers of European and India



half. The other my friend Shaler must share with you. The water being very high has prevented them from taking any lately — till this few days. Friend Shaw must send me a Pointer. I think Mrs. Sherbrook had better loan me one of hers.

Addressed: Genl. Saml. B. Webb, att No. 24 little Queen Street, New York. Honor'd by Mr. Daniel Smith.

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TO SAMUEL HOLTON.<sup>1</sup>

NEW YORK, Wednesday, 3 o'clock.

Dear Sir:

Being in company with Mr. Reed <sup>2</sup> of South Carolina, yesterday afternoon, he mentioned an appointment which Congress had to make of a person to preside over a part of the Western Territory, His sentiments respecting it induced me to show a desire to be noticed. He told me he was happy in saying that if it would be agreeable to me he would put me on the nomination, and exert his every influence to serve me, to which I assented. Whether he had done it or not I am unable to say. I have this fore-

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goods, and with a store on Hanover Street. On the death of James in 1768, his brother Charles succeeded to the business. The country seat of James was at Bloomingdale (Ninety-third Street and Columbus Avenue), and had been purchased of his brother-in-law Charles Ward Apthorpe. The Charles McEvers mentioned in the text may have been this elder Charles, or the son of James. A Charles McEvers married a daughter of Simon Johnson, and thus became connected with the Livingstons, Van Hornes, Beekmans and Neilson — names frequently found in this Webb correspondence.

<sup>1</sup> Member of Congress from Massachusetts.

<sup>2</sup> Jacob Read, also of the Congress.

noon been at the door of Congress to see you on the subject. Your being in the chair prevented. I will take the earliest opportunity of waiting on you. In the interim permit me, Dear Sir, to solicit your Friendship and influence, and if I am not already named that you will do it. Excuse the liberty I take, and believe me with sincerity, Your very Obligated Servt,

SAML. B. WEBB.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD 12th April, 1786.

Dear Brother:

George the stage driver has just handed me your letter. I can say no more on the head of purchasing than I have already. I can only say its differ'd us as much as one hundred pounds within this two days, my not having Cash on hand. I have purchased upwards of four hundred dollars, for which I borrow'd mony and gave my Note of hand on Interest. I shall make no charge of my trouble but shall leave it to you and friend Platt to say what it is worth. There was a Mr. Firman who took seven thousand dollars of commutation out of my hand, only on the Acct. of my Cash being out. He gave 2/6. I am in hopes that Belden will bring me as much as five hundred dollars.

I have two stages purchas'd, and put up as much as two Salmon, and on the Acct. of the stage being full I have not been able to forward them. If you can purchase Connecticut State Notes for 4/6 to 4/9 on the pound, they will net us a handsome profit. The last Connecticut money will answer at a Dollar; tho by the Monday stage you shall have more particularly. Do push every point or nerve

to send me a Sum of mony. I will try to take up some mony, tho' I have very little prospect I must confess. I will once more go to Hartford in the morning. When I say Connecticut Notes I mean those given the soldiers of our line. You must, if in your power, answer my letter more particularly. I shall send this by George the stage driver as far as Middletown, who puts it in the office with the inclos'd Notes. I shall be happy to do anything in my power to forward our Business, but, but, but! The want of Cash must prevent my doing anything more. I must bid adieu, and may the best of Heavens Blessings attend you is the desire of your friend and Brother,

JNO. W.

Please to remember me and the Family Affectionately to Aunt P[olly]. Will not our friend James pay that Acct? What makes me repeat this is that we are in want of all the Cash we can muster.

No. 34,595	payable to Daniel Galpen	. . . . .	for 120 Dollrs
34,596	ditto to ditto ditto	. . . . .	do 88 $\frac{8}{90}$
35,230	ditto to ditto ditto	. . . . .	do 80
41,129	ditto to Wm. Bacon	. . . . .	do 80
51,600	ditto to Wm. Bacon	. . . . .	do 13 $\frac{30}{90}$
35,220	ditto to Bordman Davis	. . . . .	do 80
			<hr/> 461 $\frac{38}{90}$ Dollrs

Those cost me 2/6 on the pound.

Addressed: Genl. Saml. B. Webb, Att No. 24 little Queen Street, New York. With a protested Bill Inclos'd.

FROM RICHARD PLATT.

Dr Sir:

Continue to advise Brother Jack to purchase all the Finals he can at 2/6 and under.

The Bearer has a check for One Hundred and Seventy Dollars.

Yours &c.

RICHD PLATT.

14th April, 1786.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 19th April, 1786.

My Dear Brother:

I have just received your letter of the 16th instant. Its the first that I knew Wadsworth would take up my drafts. I thought that I was not to apply to him till you wrote me again. As for selling my drafts, it's a thing almost impossible. If I had mony, there has been great sums sold. I am shure it has been in your power to have sent me some mony by Capt. Belden, Mr. Smith, or David Bull. The draft I drew in favor of Mr. Smith was not paid me all, but since his return. Nor is any one willing to advance mony on drafts, they have been so frequently disappointed by their not being paid. Belden took two or three drafts, and mine was the only one paid. Those people who have the final settlements to sell will not part with them without cash in hand; and the fact is that there are but very few people that are willing to take drafts on New York without you give them one month to pay for them after they return. I will only mention the people that are now at

Hartford purchasing them up: Capt. Fowler, Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Buller, Mr. Brunson, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Babcock, and many others, who have the mony on hand. I was there yesterday when Major Scott<sup>1</sup> offer'd me a large sum, and I went to every person almost there that was in Business; but they all had some excuse for not advancing the mony, and I had the mortification to see another person purchase them. I suppose it would have been in my power to have borrow'd the mony, but that I did not choose to do, as I am too much involv'd already. I am to have an answer from a man whether he will lett me have two thousand Dollars. I shall not be able to send you any this stage, neither can I send you or our worthy friend Shaler a salmon this stage, as its past today and no fishing. The only reason why I did not send you one the last stage was that there has two vessels gone from here within this ten days with a very large quantity for New York. I have been anxiously expecting a very long letter from you, giving me a particular acct. of the wedding. Your last letter to me was dated the 8th instant, when you say you will write me by the Thursday stage, and then give me orders on Wadsworth. If you wrote any such letter I have never received it. I will go and see our friend Wadsworth in the morning, and will write you very particularly by the Monday Post. I sent you on Monday a Note for Eighty odd Dollars. You mention that you have sent me your Interest Certificates. I have not received them, but Mr. D[aniel] Smith sent me word that he had left in his trunk at New Haven a letter from you, and that there were some

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<sup>1</sup> Ezekiel Scott, who was admitted to the Cincinnati as a major, but he had not attained rank in service.



papers inclos'd for me. You must not think I would by any means neglect you or the Business we are engag'd in; but if you will only recollect how different it is to [do] Business here from N. York, you will not blame me for mentioning some subjects so often. I had rather do Business in N. York to the amount of two thousand pounds, than to do as many hundreds here. They are very much afraid to give mony and receive drafts. They are a little like paper currency. I am afraid that the person who bought your mills will take the advantage of the paper currency and pay you off. I have not the greatest opinion in the world of his honesty. Please to remember me affectionately to all our Circle of Friends. Capt. Wait Goodrich, the bearer, requests your influence with Colo. [Robert] Troop, as he wants his assistance in the law. I have wrote this in a very great hurry and must request you to make the apology that's necessary. Capt. Wait Goodrich has just call'd and ses he will deliver this with his own hands. He is a very worthy cleaver fellow, tho' an unfortunate one. By him I shall send you two commutation Notes amounting to one hundred twenty-three  $\frac{2}{90}$  @ 2/6. I also shall draw on you in favor of Capt. W. Goodrich for nine pounds thirteen shillings and seven pence, lawfull mony of Connecticut, payable on sight. I hope on Monday to forward the amount that our friend Shaler wants, tho' on Friday I must once more visit our place at Coalchester. I have been purchasing me a House, Barn, and a Farm of seventy-four acres [of] Land, as a retreat in case I get any more out of the World. For I think Coalchester to be as good a retreat as any I can find. Say God Bless our worthy Friends Joy, and Bailey, and families, who I wish sincerely to see with Aunt P[olly]. What has become of the worthy Miss

L[ivingston], niece to Mrs. Jay.<sup>1</sup> I want exceedingly to see our friends. If this Business is like to answer, do push every nerve to send me a sum of mony. Connecticut State Notes to the Line of the Army out in 1782, '83 and '84, are worth 7/6 to 8/. Those out in 1785 and so on to 1789 are at 5/ in the pound. Connecticut State mony from 7/ to 7/6 on the pound. I wish you to sell that fowling piece of mine with you, and collect those small Debts, for the larger the Capital the more profits to us. Finals are now at 3/ in Boston. Should you have purchas'd the Buckles for our friend Chester be good enough to send them. Where is Shaw? He promis'd he would send me a pointer. I wish you only to mention [it] to Philip, and he will soon put one on board of a vessel for me. It will be an amusement to you when you come into the country, and it will be of great service to your Brother. I think you have a field Bed that you do not make use of. If so and you will sell it me, I will give you the value of it. How does Mr. and Mrs. King go to Boston. Please to present my particular Compliments to them and the family. Should Horace<sup>2</sup> want any small sum of mony I wish you to advance it him. I must request you to make an apology for this scrawl, as the room has been full of company the whole evening.

Addressed: Gen'l Samuel B. Webb, at No. 24 little Queen Street, New York. Honor'd by Capt. Wait Goodrich.

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<sup>1</sup> Mrs. John Jay was Sarah Van Brugh Livingston, daughter of Gov. William Livingston of New Jersey. Her brother Henry Brockholst Livingston was prominent in New York.

<sup>2</sup> Horace Johnson.

FROM RICHARD PLATT.

April 22nd, 1786.

Dr. Sir:

I send you a Rect. for the Finals. I am sorry I cannot send you the two checks you wish. I send you one, and as soon as either Lee <sup>1</sup> or Hillegas <sup>2</sup> will pay any money, I shall be strong, but not before. Today I am obliged to send Sumner a large sum of money by vessel going to Georgia. I am obliged to advance it, or he must go without. I have his warrant for a Qrs Salary, but it is only paper, and Sumner wants hard money. I will send you tomorrow a list of New York Finals. I thank you for your information. Yours &c.,

RICHARD PLATT.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 26th April, 1786.

Dear Brother:

I arrived here last evening, having been at Coalchester all the last week; and on my return found your letter dated the 19th March. Where it has been, God only knows. I am sorry that you have admitted our friend Platt, tho' perhaps you had not a capital sufficient. If you had, you have given something that would have been an object to us. I am this day offer'd a large sum of commutation Notes at 2/6, but the want of Cash prevents me from purchasing. You wrote me that Wadsworth would take up my Bills, but he ses that it is not in his power. If he had done what you told me, I should have been able to

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<sup>1</sup> Probably Arthur Lee, one of the Continental Board of Treasury.

<sup>2</sup> Michael Hillegas, treasurer of the United States.

have sent you some thousand Dollars by the bearer, Mrs. [Amos] Bull. I am much disappointed by your seeming neglect. Why, my good friend, have you not sent me the mony you have had of mine in your hands? Had you only sent that I could have turn'd it to our mutual advantage. You say that you have sold those I have forwarded to a profit. If so or not, you have a considerable ballance now due on those in your hands. You must no that every thing depends on the speedy returns to make any considerable profit on those matters. I shall always think myself extremely happy to be doing you any service. I am shure you must be convinc'd of that. I am not asking you for the ballance on our private Acct., only to request you to forward the monies due me on the sales of those I have sent you. I must repeat that nothing can be done without there is a considerable Cash sent me. These are selling at Boston for 3/, and are upon the rise. If there is anything to be done, it must soon; and if the one article comes that is needful, perhaps I can do something to profit. Mr. Daniel Smith has this day sent me your certificates. Had he have sent them before I could have sold them, but I shall do the best I can. Are you willing to part with your Interest Certificates at 10/ on the pound in Cash, or to take 13/4 in men's Notes that are payable in the Fall in produce? Your answer if you please. Please to present my love to Aunt P[olly], and my Compliments to our Circle of friends. Why, my Br., has not Colo. Obel and our friend James sent me the ballance of their Accts? I wish the matter of Thompson's might be put immediately in suit. The latter I thought would have been glad to have sent me the ballance in loaf sugar. The family are well and request to be remembered to you and Aunt P[olly].



I find that Wm Denning <sup>1</sup> has wrote a very impolite letter to Jo, who owes him [*seal*] ballance. He feels his consequence. I would have you do what is most convenient respecting the buckles. I requested Horace to purchase a few small articles, which if he has, I wish him to send by the bearer. How is Miss Lesser? God bless her. Have you ever thought to ask Miss C. Kyler [Cuyler] <sup>2</sup> for the Books I lent her and Miss White of N. Shalers? For in my Acct. he has charged them. May every wish and desire of yours be justified is the sincere wish of yours Affectionately,

JNO. W.

Addressed: Gen'l Samuel B. Webb, att No 24 little Queen Street, New York. Honor'd by Mrs. Bull.

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FROM ROBERT MORRIS, JUNIOR.

WEST CHESTER, May 15th, 1786.

Dear Webb:

Your attentive letter to my happiness was last eavening handed me by pappa, and receive my warmest thanks for your uniform conduct through the period of our acquaintance, however warm yet me thinks mutually sincear, and this your letter is not one of the smallest marks of your concern for me and mine. This old Goshonite must have made no small stur among my Relations in Town, very laughable for you a silent spectator of their conduct. Mother must have sniggered a little if acredited by her. Make notes, Webb, for I am sure no memory can contain

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<sup>1</sup> A member of the Committee of Correspondence in 1774, and an assemblyman after the peace.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Catharine, daughter of Henry Cuyler.



all. I am up to my —— in business, and scarcely time to write my friends. I am sorry to inform you that Old Black is infinitely worse than any 4-footed beast I have yet come acrossed. He makes nothing visiting his neighbors three miles an eand [end] to test their Rhy. My hay I have got for him is very bad. I am necessitated to turn him out in the day time. I have at length procured an easy pair of iron hopples which keep him very quiet, and I am in hopes he will soon thrive. There is a man that would wish to purchase him, if for sale. Let me know your lowest price.

My respects to my friends, Mrs. King &c., and believe me Sincerely yours,

ROBT. MORRIS, JUNIOR.

You may see my writing is not the better for work.

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FROM WILLIAM WICKHAM.

GOSHEN, Thursday Evening, May 17th, '86.

Dear Sir:

A continued storm ever since my arrival has prevented my going out. The Cash is ready for me. A good person will set out for New York on Friday or Saturday who I shall entrust with the money. However, Sir, should he not be in time, I beg you'll not put yourself to the least inconvenience, but procure the money with the Certificates. I am not certain by what conveyance this will go, but I expect a Lad will set out tomorrow for New York to whose care this will be sent in the morning.

I think you told me the Cash was to be paid on Saturday. Had it not been for this Storm I could have sent the money

by Friday. It will undoubtedly be in New York on Saturday or Sunday morning at farthest.

I am, Sir, with much Regard Your most obt. Hum. Servt.,

WM. WICKHAM.

Addressed: General Webb, Broadway No. 25, New York.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

Yours of the 16th I have this moment received. I am surprised what busy meddling rascals have been endeavoring my hurt. For your satisfaction I may venture to say I think my self not in their power more than I can get rid of. If any of my Creditors will take *Lands* or Notes, and those that may be good, I will pay them off in 24 hours. Security I will give no *man*; pay them as above I am ready. I am fifteen years older than I was at the close of the *War* by my attention to secure our outstanding Debts. I have gone thro much *fatigue*, trouble, vexation, anxiety, both by Day and Night, taking Notes, *Securities* and settlements. I have been as fortunate as my Neighbors, but payment I have not been able to get. However I trust a pay day will come, and my Object will be to pay off my debts. *Brother Jack* is gone to Salisbury to see about our affairs there. Brother Jack will be at home on Saturday, I believe. I wish my Business would permit my coming to York. I could give them the fullest and most ample satisfaction of my conduct, such as would please. I will endeavor if possible to come to York. Ask my friend Mr. Vanhorn the particulars and the informants. Its a piece of friendship I ought to be indulged in. I will write him

myself soon, by this opportunity its impossible. I wish you would do the needful to set matters right. I am, Dear Brother, with Compliments to our friendly Circle, Yr. Most afft Br.,

JOS. WEBB.

Thursday Evening, 11 o'Clock.  
18th May, 1786.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York. Per Mr. Stewart. Endorsed: Received and forwarded by J. B. Cutting.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Secret for your self.

Dr. B[rother]:

I have wrote you by this Opportunity in answer to yours of the 16th, which you may make what use of it you please. It fills me with anxiety. But D—m them, who can be the Busy ones? I suspect George S—— Jere W[adsworth]. Nathl. Sh[aler]. Depend on it some one of these Characters have been at least unguarded. They are friends and no friends. I wish more to see you than ever. It looks against me that I have not been at York; but to be honest a letter from *Jack* while he was in York advised me not come, prevented me being there according to my writing you, Burr, and others. I believe he thought he did right, but I believe it was unfortunate. Let me beg you not to mention my suspicions even in your most friendly unguarded moments. Search and find out by some way or other, but take care; be prudent, be cautious, be thoughtful. Hear much, say little. Write me freely. We have all enemies I assure you, and depend upon it where you do not at present believe. Some say this of you, some say

this and that of me, this and that of Jack and others. We have plenty of good friends the backward way. Some can't bear to see our family on so respectable footing, and others a variety of infamous causes to say against one or the other what they can. Ill report ketches fast. You must know I have for a long time been *jealous* of some of the above Characters. Perhaps I may add T[homas] Seymour. In short I might add others, but I suppose by what Brother Jack says you will be coming this way, when I shall be happy to unfold a Budget. I fear to trust too much to paper. Yet the mail is quite safe; but the difficulty is I trust my letters by the stage to Mid[dle]t[own], then to be put in the mail. However I will write without reserve to you, as I know of no letters miscarrying as yet. I owed principal on Books to D[aniel] Phenix abt. £250 York. He put it in the hands of one Mr. *Ingraham* of Midt., and several letters passed and repassed, quite genteel and in friendship, between Ingraham and myself, Phenix and myself. Nothing quite settled. At last Phenix wrote a sevear letter, and gave positive orders if I would not pay it, secure it by Notes, or some way, to attach and put it in to an Attorney's hand. They put it in Asher Miller's. He wrote me; so did Ingraham. I comply'd on giving other peoples' Note, and if he collects them I have nothing to do with D. P. He lies at my mercy about the Interest. He's behaved so as to justify my not allowing him a farthing interest. I dispise him. E. Miller is the only one I owe on Note in York. As to Denning, I owe him for wine taken in 1776 £96 York — not a farthing more. I wish to know without you saying a word to him what mony you deliv'd him on my Acct., and how you settled. Write me by the Return of this stage. Its



too late to add. Your Enemies say you attach yourself to cards, Neglect Business. I suppose it springs from the deviltry of our Enemies, and without the least foundation. Write me freely by the next. I will endeavor to write you so as you may read. Its exceeding late; the stage goes off at 5 o'clock in the morning.

Write me what McEvers says. Jemmy promised [to aid] me. He pretended much friendship. I fear its only pretention, yet I may injure him. He appears a good young man, but then [*seal*] Seymour. Adieu, Adieu.

When will you be here?

18th May, 1786.

Addressed: General Sam. B. Webb, New York. Per Mr. Stewart.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

I wrote you by the last stage but I hardly know what I wrote. It was late in the evening, my mind rather discompos'd. I was vext, and hardly knew who at. I rather suspect *D[aniel] Phenix*. I expected a letter from you by the last post, but when I consider the rapid returns of the stage I have not much to say. I hope however that the very hour you receive this I shall receive one from you in full answer of my *jumbled* confused letter. Do you advise me to come to [New] York? Write me as freely and fully as you please. I confess to you I think I ought to come; nothing is so agreeable to a Creditor as seeing his Debtor often, Except *paying*. I trust before this you have found out what Vanhorn alluded to. Get from him all the particulars. How is Jemmy McEvers since his return



from Connecticut? How is Charles McEvers? How is Shayler? Jacob Le Roy and his son<sup>1</sup> din'd with me this day; has just gone back to drink Tea with Thos. Seymour. I wish as little as possible may be said about McE——'s attaching S. D[eane]'s *property*, as the consequence will be a series of Enquiry from all S. D.'s creditors, and cause much trouble. The least said is best. When will you come and chat over all these matters? I am, dear Brother,  
Yrs Sincerely,  
J. WEBB.

May 21st, 1786.

Jemmy McEvers has a pair of Sturrups I suffer much for. I cant think there is about £300 York due from S. D. to J. McE. Will it do for you to find out? Mrs. W[ebb] says you must bring Miss Duyckinck with you.

I have a great mind to come to York, but shall wait for your Answer. Or perhaps I had better wait and return with you. How can it possibly be workt for me to have a vessel to go to *the Havana* for Hides? It is a matter of much Consequence. Between you and me if the Tan Works were well fill'd once with Hides, after that they would stock themselves. Then would the family have a plan of property to apply to; it would be a body of reserve. Do you suppose we can make Interest enough to have a small Sloop run there in July with Onions, Garlic, and such a Cargo as he may dictate. Mr. Le Roy thinks it can. He's determined to assist you with his Influence.

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<sup>1</sup> Jacob Le Roy, Sr., died in 1792-93, leaving a curious will, as it specially provided that: "I have directed a ticket to be purchased for me in the Lottery of the States General of Holland, and one in the State Lottery of England; my will is that in case the said tickets draw a prize or prizes, that my wife Catharine shall have the one-sixth part, etc." His will was witnessed by John Keese.

FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 3d June, 1786.

My Dear Brother:

I this morning send by Mr. Horner your Watch and Cane, to be deliver'd to Genl. Persons. I also send you a final Settlement Note for 80 Dollrs. @ 2/6, which I purchased on my return of Capt. [Ezekiel] P. Belden. You must do everything to have matters prepar'd by the time I return from Boston, which will be week after next, some time the latter end of the Week. Present my compliments to Colo. Platt, and tell him that everything in my [power] I will do. You must remember me to the Circle of our Friends. I have nothing worth communicating, as you left this so late. I am with Esteem Yours affectionately,

JNO. W.

P. S. You must send me mony on my Return.

WEBB.

I wish you to converse with persons respecting the Western Lands. If you please ask Miss Cuyler for the Plays lent her and Miss White. Col. White is indebted to me 13/6.

Addressed: Gen'l. Sam'l B. Webb, New York. Honor'd by Major Gen. Parsons.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

Not a line from you since you was here. Brother Jack is not yet return'd from *Boston*. Barrell writes me his daughter Sally is very ill, and begs Jack would not as yet

come after *Hetty*. He says Geary owes him £2000 Sterling, begs me to secure him. I see there is a General Attachment gone out in York State. I suppose it would be well for Barrell to lay in his claim in York, or can I attach solely for Barrell if I find any debt in the State of New York? Brother Jesse [Deane] has not been at the House since the affair. I wish you could send me a copy of Silas Deane's last letter. What shall I write him? I wish for a long circumstantial letter from you. I wish Horace would collect Iver's debt. Laboyteaux [will s]end it me in tea. Mrs. W[ebb] says I must write you, we are quite out [of sugars] of all kind. You will not let the Ladies suffer. Pray send Aunt Polly. I am, Dear Brother, Yours affectionately,

J. WEBB.

[July], 1786.

In a confidential way I wish you would [with]out much attention examine the say of the House of Effingham Laurence in London. I fear all the American Houses will fail. I shall [send] Gerry G. Beekman's shad by the first vessel bound to York from Weth'd. Have you thought of my Payments from Brig *Joe*.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 4th July, 1786.

My Dear Brother:

I received your line by the stage this evening, and am not only sorry but disappointed that you cannot answer my Bills to the amount I have purchased Notes. I had drawn on you for fifteen pounds New York Currency in

favor of Amos Bull, but in the morning shall some way take up the draft. I expected when I began this Business to have had at least the money I advanced; but you have your reasons I dare say, and I shall contrive some way to settle my matters, and the day after tomorrow leave this for Colchester. I shall be very happy to hear from you when ever Business or Inclination will permit. If you please you may send me your field Bedstead, with one pair Blankets and two Pairs Sheets, and I will pay you the value for them. If you send them I wish you to direct them to me at Colchester, to the care of Wm. Winthrop at New London. I will thank you if you will write me by the first Post whether it will be convenient for you to supply me with those articles. If not I will purchase them some where else. Hetty desires her love to you and Aunt Polly; every branch of the family desire the same. She is very much disappointed at not meeting Aunt Polly. Should you see our mutual and worthy friend Seagrove, I wish you to make my Compliments to him, in which the family join, and tell him that his gun shall be sent by the first safe opportunity. I should have sent it before had there in favorable opportunity offer'd; its too valuable to send by the stages. You may also mention that I have only made use of it three times. All his friends wish and expect to see him in this part of the World. I have requested my Brother to let you know when Mr. Barrell comes on, tho' he propos'd to be here for Hetty by the first of August. You may judge he intends leaving Boston the Monday after commencement, which is between the 19 and 24th of July. Your letters after this week will come safe to me by putting them in the New London Mail, directed to Mr. Green, who will send them me by Mr. Night the Post



rider. You entirely forgot in your last to mention anything respecting our Business, whether paper had risen or fallen. Please to remember me affectionately to all those that enquire after me, and believe me to be with Sincere Affection yours,

JOHN W.

Addressed: Gen'l Sam'l B. Webb, New York. Per Mr. John Lockwood.

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FROM WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, JUNIOR.

NEW YORK, 10th July, '86.

Dr. Sir:

Mr. Abm. Ogden tells me that you are desirous to administer upon an Estate in Jersey. As I shall be obliged to leave Town to-morrow morning, I shall be glad to see you upon the subject some time to day, for which purpose I shall attend at Mr. R. Watt's this afternoon precisely at five. Mr. Ogden who is willing to become your surety being in Town, if the business can be done to day, it will save you a jaunt into Jersey.

In Haste Your obedt Servt,

WM. LIVINGSTON, JUNR.<sup>1</sup>

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Sunday Evening, July 16, 1786.

Dear Brother:

Sister Hetty and all the family have just [been] wishing Brother Sam was here to make up the Social Evening.

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<sup>1</sup> With whom Webb fought a duel.



They wish for Br. *Jack*. He's at Colchester. Why do you not write? They all complain. I know the goodness of your Heart, or I could not forgive you. I write, but get no Answers. Stuben is with me every Sunday Mornng. He wishes to *Christen* his Child. He says you would write Colo. Chester, or me, from the Baron. I send him to Colo. Chester. Poor fellow thinks hard. Where is my Tea? Where is my Acct of Molasses D D Dea[illegible] <sup>1</sup> others out of Brig *Joseph*? What says Seagrove to you? Grant me a long circumstantial letter, and Believe me your Aft. Br.,

JOS. WEBB.

How did Nich Hoffman <sup>2</sup> and that Party like Connecticut? What say they? I am in distress for a Chaise. Do call on Hallet this Port, and see before its done up, Amos Bull's New Chaise and observe the faults, that I may write you and mend. Would you get plated furniture? I think not. Brass is easy kept clean. The Harness I can get better here than in York. Let me beg you to go yourself and observe several Ice houses, and write me how to Build one.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 24th August, 1786.

My Dear Brother:

I arrived home last Evening very much fatigued, and found the family all well. They were very happy to hear

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<sup>1</sup> "Delivered Deane."

<sup>2</sup> Nicholas Hoffman represented New York City in the Assembly, 1788-89.

that you was well, tho' could have wish'd that you had meet with a different Character than Mr. L[ivingston],<sup>1</sup> as his fame has reach'd the country, and the only observation that I have meet with is that people in general think it a matter too small to put up in computation. I am told that the Printer at Middleton is printing the publication of L——. If so I shall have yours done. I cannot but think that you had better let me speak with Wadsworth respecting your matter in our friend Shaler's hands. I think should you write him, it will prevent those from being sold, and the scarcity of money is such that you must expect very little or nothing from this Quarter. Do, my good Br., remember to forward the Note Mr. Barrell requested. Remember me to our most worthy friend Seagrove, and tell him I shall write him in a few days, and that I am doing everything in my power to be ready by the first of November. I wish you to remember me to our worthy friend Horace, and request him to forward the Sugar by the first opportunity. The family desire to be remember'd to you and Aunt Polly. Tell our friend Col. Lee such has been the Demand Leather that it will not be in my power to send him any till the latter end of November, but I have requested Mr. Denny to reserve what he requested. He has a Calf skin for yourself. I this afternoon have taken my Horse for our friend Col. Lee to see what he could purchase 10,000 Dollars of Loan Office Certificates for. I have applied to Capt. Fowler, who has promis'd to write him on the subject. He says he can purchase them at 3/6 reduc'd to specie value, tho' I imagine

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<sup>1</sup> William Livingston, Jun. See Webb, *Correspondence and Journals*, III, 64.

that he will get him to deliver them at 3/4. I most sincerely thank Col. Lee for his offer to purchase Southern Lands; without they lay in the State of Georgia I do not [care to.] I will thank him for any letters he may give me to his friends in Georgia. If I can do anything for you here, I shall be very happy to serve you. Remember me to all friends and believe me Affectionately yours,

JOHN WEBB.

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FROM GEORGE D. WICKHAM.

GOSHEN, Monday, August 28th, '86.

Dear Sir:

I have received your kind letter of the 26th Instant, and am very much obliged to you for your friendly advice. But I question if I shall have patience enough to follow it. I conceive my Ankle is allmost well, for I am free from pain, and all that detains me is the Swelling; but I am in hopes that in a few days that difficulty will be removed, that I shall be able to return with Papa.

Remember me to Philip, and tell him he must not neglect my Yallow Birds And believe me to be your most sincere friend,

G. D. W.

Addressed: Gen'l Webb, New York. Honour'd by Mr. Gab'l Ludlum.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Br[other]:

The stage has just gone by, but I set down to write you an Answer to your Letter to *Brother Jack*. I am anxious, I am uneasy, and indeed Surpris'd. You must know on

the 25th Instant I wrote Mr. [Ashur] Miller and enclosed my Note according to his request. Not hearing from him I was uneasy, and wrote him this Morning on the subject; but I knew nothing of the failure. I have not time to give a New Note and get Evidence, as its only  $\frac{1}{2}$  after 4 o'clock and the stage gone. I must send a Boy to Midn., if I cant overtake the stage before. Shew this scrawl to Mr. Miller, and assure him I delivd Brother Jack the Letter as I was going a Journey to Litchfield on the 25th, with my Note enclosed to John Alsop for the Sum he requested. I am mortified of the failure [and] of its consequence. Its a large Letter and may come to Life. Tell them that I will execute a New Note by next stage. Its impossible to do it in season for this. Do the needful. I can't add, only that I am Sincerely,

JOS. WEBB.

Wednesday Mornng  
30th Aug., [1786.]

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 31st August, 1786.

My Dear Brother:

I received your friendly but short letter a few days since. I must say I think Livingston (divest him of his connections) a poor reach — one, who deserves pity rather than contempt, tho' you are the best judge what is wright. I am unhappy to be oblig'd to inform you that it is not in my power to sell your certificates for 7/ on the pound. There never was known so scarce a time for Cash. I have been to Hartford, Middleton, Glastenbury, Eastbury, and East Windsor, and find I can barter them away at eight shillings — tho' you may depend I shall do everything in



my power to render you all the service in my power, for I can with truth say that it gives me pleasure to serve you. I wish my abilities was equal to my Inclination. I am sorry you have not thought of our Br. Barrell respecting Campbel's Note. I think he is in danger of loosing his Debt. I hope I shall see you before I leave this. I am proposing to be off by the 5th November. Make my respects to our friend S[eagrove], and request him to answer my letter very particularly, as all our Carpenters and Joiners are waiting for the Rect. of that letter so as they may know what to depend on. You will make me happy and the rest of your friends, if you will write me every opportunity. Remember me to our mutual friend Asgill, who we shall be very happy to see. I should write you further on some Business, but knowing your present situation I shall omit it. Believe me to be your Afft. Br.,

JOHN W.

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FROM MR. ANSTERS.

Mr. Ansters presents his Compts to Gen. Webb, takes the liberty of acquainting him that since his return to his office he finds some people who have been waiting to have their Business transacted so as to admit of their leaving N. York tonight, which unavoidably obliges Mr. Ansters not to leave Town till late in the Evening. Will therefore have the pleasure to accompany Genl. Webb in his Phaeton to Greenwich some other opportunity. In the meantime if to-morrow will be agreeable to the General, Mrs. Ansters will [be] happy to see him to take a family dinner at Greenwich.

Saturday noon, [September, 1786.]



FROM MISS CHARITY SMITH.

Sir:

I am prevented from going to Content this day by the rain, and shall spend it with Mrs. Varick. As Colo. Forrist has expressed a great wish to see me, I inform you of my stay here, that he may not be under the necessity of taking the ride out of Town, as you proposed the other Evening. You must let me know what time you will come, for I have several visits to pay. Please to send by the servant those Pictures you promised and you'll oblige your friend,

C. SMITH.

Tuesday Morn. 8 o'clock [September, 1786].

FROM JOHN WEBB.

[WETHERSFIELD, September, 1786.]

My Dear Brother:

I [have] only one moment to write just to inform you that the Family are well, and that one and all request you to be remember'd to you and Aunt P[olly]; And to request you to call on our mutual and worthy friend Seagrove, and request him to answer the letters I wrote him. Also to request our friend Shaler to open those letters I have wrote Horace Johnson, as they contain matters of consequence to me. And if convenient to let James Sebor do the Business, as I am told Horrace is come from New York. Be good enough to write me by the first opportunity, and believe me to be affectionately yours,

JOHN WEBB.

Addressed: Gen'l Sam'l B. Webb, New York. Honor'd by Sam'l Buck, Esq.

FROM WILLIAM WICKHAM.

Dear Sir:

I want about £500 nominal value of Certificates given for depre[ciation] of Pay of the York Line. It was given by Haring Gassharel and Moffatt by vertue of an Act of Assembly of this State. Pray exchange some of my Certificates for them. It is the same thing at the Treasury. Col. Henry Wisner left with Bancker several hundred pounds; he told me I might have them. I want them much to oblige a friend. Bancker I presume will make no difficulty in exchanging.

I am, Dr. Sir, your most Obt Hum. Servt.,

WM. WICKHAM.

4th Sept. '86.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

Dear Brother:

I am made happy by hearing that your affair with Livingston has terminated boath to his and your honor. As the matter is now clos'd I must request you to pay a little attention to our Brs. matter, respecting his Note given to Miller. He the very day I returned executed a Note, but I put it away to be safe, and it slipt my mind for two post — tho' when I left you it was agreed that in case my Brs. Note did not come on in season that you should give yours. Tho' by Miller's letter that matter is done with. On my return last evening my Br. shew me a very short letter from Mr. Alsop demanding the pay immediately, a Copy of which I will give you on the other side. I will thank you, if you please, if you will forward me as soon as convenient your long Gun and the Horseman's Tent, as I am arranging every matter so as to quit this by November. I

suppose now that this matter is clos'd we shall once more see you and our good Aunt P[olly]. Tell my good Friend Seagrove that I will do what he requested, and when I get the Carpenters and joiners engag'd I'll write him. Remember me to all our Friends and Believe me sincerely your Friend &c.,

JNO. WEBB.

12th Septb., 1786.

[Copy.]

Sir:

Mr. Eleazer Miller, Junr. has assigned me your obligation for £750 this Cury, which becomes due the 27 ultimo, and he assured me that you intended to discharge it very soon. Shall therefore be expecting your Remittances upon the same speedily, which will oblige him who is in nead of Mony, My compliments to Mrs. Webb and remain, Sir &c.,

JNO. ALSOP.

[torn] 1786.

You will render my Br. service by calling on Mr. Alsop who must be ignorant of the impossibility of collecting money. I dare say my Br. (after Mr. Miller's conduct) will pay Alsop of in Notes. Dam the friendship of the World. It's a time serving pest. I thank god I owe no person.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

Dear Brother:

I received your letter of the 17th September, and those on the same subject some time since. I can only say that no person has a greater desire to serve you than myself; but when it is not in a person's power you cannot expect it. Had you sent your Notes and Certificates at the time I wrote for them, I could have sold them at 12/; but money

is so scarce as to make them fall from that to 7/ and 7/6. If you wish me to sell them at any rate, I will try more, tho' I have been in one-half of the towns in this State without affecting anything. I could have sold them at seven shillings, but I would not sell my own at that, and of course would not sell yours. You have no right I am shure to complain of me, for you have shar'd largely in my little all. You also should consider that I am very busy in preparing to leave this. I have wrote my worthy friend Seagrove a number of letters, to which I have received no answer. In my last I wrote him that I had engag'd Saml. Bliss with thirty Joiners and Carpenters at 4/ per day, given Bliss 5/, which all my friends think a very great bargain. If convenient let me request you to call on him and tell him that everything is now waiting for his assent. I am very anxious for his answer. I am afraid that the War with the savages will be detriment[al] to our plan. The Gentleman has call'd, so I must close — saying no person wishes more to serve you than your affectionate Br.,

JOHN.

21st Sept., [1786.]

Addressed: Genl. Saml. B. Webb, New York. Honor'd by Mr. Devan.

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FROM ELNATHAN HASKELL.

BOSTON, Octr. 12th, '86.

Dear Sir:

I received your favor by the post this evening, which receives an additional merit in your having stolen from convivial companions [to write to] an absent friend. You [torn] business and I hope much pleasure. [With] gentle-



man that is systematically bred to it, business becomes pleasure. It enhances the satisfaction therefore of one that am busy about nothing to be remembered by you. I must consider myself as highly privileged after what your sister has told me, for she says you seldom write her. I see her last evening. She asks after you, and whether you are not addressing a certain Lady. I reply'd (what should I have said?) I conjectured it. *You* know I do not like singularity.

I shall communicate your intention of coming on, but your friends will doubt your resolution, altho' you have given proofs of personal bravery, of quitting a place that possesses such allurements as New York.

I am exceedingly pleased with the acquaintance of Mr. Freeman. He professes all and I am sure feels great friendship for you.

I have been obliged to write in haste or miss the conveyance tomorrow. The mail is closed at 10 in the evening, and the time approaches.

I have prevailed upon Post Mr. to keep open the mail a few minutes, which has given me time to scribble a line which is enclosed for your delivery. It will oblige yours,

E. HASKELL.

Addressed: Genl. Saml. B. Webb, Broadway, New York.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

Dear Brother:

WETHERSFIELD, 23rd October, 1786.

I now send you by Mr. James McEvers nine Guineas, which is all in my power to send you. You have not acknowledged the receipt of forty Dollars which I gave



you, an order on Mr. Horace Johnson. You cannot expect that I can pay that attention to your Certificates as if I had nothing to do. I have everything on earth to contend with. Its sufficient to make a man curse Father and Mother to have to deal with my countrymen. You have not been good enough to send the Tent and Gun. I wish you to let me know whether it will be convenient. If not I will procure them. I have embark'd in a matter which God only knows how it will turn out. I wish you to write me and inform me whether our friend Seagrove will get out of his troubles. The men I shall carry and should he not be there I am afraid it will ruin me. Do my friend (if Business will permit) write me fully, for much depends on Seagrove's being there. I have been at great expense, and its encreasing every hour. I have Chartered a Vessell of 70 or 80 Tons, and shall leave this by 15th of November. Some tell me he will not settle his matters; do write me. I want a Black Boy to go with me as a private Servant. I wish you to ask Philip to see Hazard, and see if he will hire himself to me for one or two years. His old Master was here on Saturday and offer'd to sell him to me, and ses he will send down and have him taken up. So he must look out. His name is Prior. I intend to go out of the Hook with my Vessell. I am obliged to go to Andover this day, which oblig'd me to close this scrawl. We all desire to be remember'd to Aunt Polly.

I am affty Yours,

JNO. W.

P. S. do be so good as to deliver our good friend Seagrove the inclos'd letter.

Addressed; Genl. Samuel B. Webb, New York. Mr. James McEvers.

FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

Dear Sam:

BOSTON, 24th October, 1786.

I received your favor of the 15th Instant, with the Accot. Sales of the wine, and I confess to you I shall be ashamed to send it to the Gentn. who owns it; so very extraordinary wants are not to be accounted for without the highest suspicions of fraud, and I can have no doubt but they were taken from the pipes, which were full and in good order when you received them. I beg therefore you will make further enquiry in the matter, and if possible get some satisfaction; and if not, write a circumstantial accot. of the matter that I may send it to the owner, without which I should be ashamed to send the Sales. I have at present my house full of Barrells. In a week or ten days I shall thin them off, and shall then and *at all times* be happy to see you. I hope by then you will have settled your Mill Matters to your satisfaction. I have never received the letter you mention inclosing the Advertizement respecting Gearey. Send or bring another when you come. Will nothing be done about Delancy? I wish to see N. York, and should have business in that line.

Inclosed you'll find a publication I have been forced into to state a very oppressive Act of our Genl. Court. Read it and give me your opinion if anything in Turkey can exceed it. The Senate are debating whether to call me upon the floor. I am ready to attend them when they please and willing to suffer for the Truth, if they think proper to extend their power for the purpose; but I havn't done with them yet. My Respects to Aunt Polly, in which we all join. Yours sincerely,

JO. BARRELL.

FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 3 November 1786.

My Dear Brother:

I have wrote several letters of late and have not received any answers to them. The last was by Mr. James McEvers, who I sent 8 Guineas by. I have my vessel and hands to go to Georgia, and our friend Seagrove has neglected sending me the letters. Its a matter of consequence I should receive them, as the carpenters and joiners' pay commences on the 15th instant, when I shall be here with forty men on pay and eating our provisions. I wish you to be good enough to call on him, and request him to forward me the letters, as I am determin'd to sail on the 15th — letters or not. Do write me by the return of the Post, particularly the situation that our friend is in. For this matter may ruin me if not attended to. I think was I in your place I should have assisted you, but Business I suppose of more consequence has prevented. I should have been happy to have seen you before I left this, but you have my best wishes for your Health and Happiness. I am affectionately yours,

JNO. WEBB.

Addressed: Genl. Sam. B. Webb, New York. Per post.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

I am unhappy to find by all your letters that you seem to think I have neglected you. On your arrival here you will find by my papers that no one could have done more. I am shure that every part of my life has been to render

you service. There is no person on earth that would do more to serve you than myself. I most sincerely wish you every happiness in life, and should my matters turn out fortunate I will prove it to you. I had promised myself we should meet before I left this. I have a great deal to say to you, but dare not trust it to paper. Remember me particularly to all friends, and accept of my most sincere wishes for your health and happiness. I [am] yours affectionately,

JNO. W.

Past 1 o'clock in the evening 7th Nov. '86.

Addressed: Genl. Samuel B. Webb, New York. Per Mr. H. Deming.

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FROM ELNATHAN HASKELL.

Dear Sir:

BOSTON, November 14th, '86.

I have to acknowledge your last favor of —, date unknown, but it was strongly mark'd. You may remember ink was used for sand.

Mr. Fitch Hall<sup>1</sup> the bearer of this sets off for New York tomorrow where he expects to continue for a short time. It will be in your power to make that place agreeable to him; and as he is a very particular friend of mine, and I know you to have a disposition to please, every attention shown will be considered as fresh marks of esteem confer'd on your very sincere friend and obdt Servt.,

E. HASKELL.

Addressed: General Sam'l B. Webb, New York. Honored by Major Hall.

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<sup>1</sup> In 1789 he was one of the aids of General John Brooks, and was sent to ask President Washington when he would review the troops on his visit to Cambridge. *New Eng. Hist. Gen. Reg.*, XVI, 381.



FROM LEWIS R. MORRIS.

My Dear Webb:

SPRINGFIELD, 30th November, 1786.

I left New York on Saturday last and have got no farther yet than this place. It now snows very fast so that in all probability I remain *in statu quo* during this day. I am however in very good quarters, vizt. Col. Worthington's. Now if I can fall violently in love with one of the young ladies, I might *possibly* turn this snow storm to a good account. I lodged on Monday night at Jos. Webb's. All well, your Brother was much surprized that you had not gone from New York to Boston much sooner than you did. They appear to lament it as it must deprive them so much longer of your company, a pleasure which they anticipate with much satisfaction. Your Brother Jack has sailed, but there is some doubt whether he left New London before Monday last. I had nearly forgot to inform you of our passage from New York to New Haven. We left the former on Saturday morning and got no farther than Whitestone. Mr. and Mrs. King, Mr. Mrs. Lowel, Mr. Mrs. Jervis, Miss Broome an other lady whose name I do not remember, men besides without number, composed our party. On Sunday morning the wind came a head; we beat till noon and got as far as Hempstead harbor. We then went on shore and dined, &c., &c., and on Monday morning arrived at our destined Port very much fatigued with our voyage. Apropos! I saw Fanny on Friday evening very well. You are now, my friend, far removed from New York, and of course must have more leisure and find your mind more composed to form your future arrangements on the business I allude to. Let them my friend be such as your good sense not your pas-



sions dictates, and when once formed pursue the system with all the intrepidity of a soldier and a man of honor — honor to yourself demands it. My respects to any person who inquires after me, and believe me your sincere friend and most obedt humble servt.,

L. R. MORRIS.

Addressed: Samuel B. Webb, Esquire. To the care of Joseph Barrell, Esquire, Boston. Honor'd by Mr. Williams.

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FROM ELNATHAN HASKELL.

Saturday [BOSTON, December, 1786.]

The storm, believe me, should not have prevented my attendance. I am really indisposed, and the disappointment in not having it my power is not a little mortifying. I promised and made very great dependance on availing myself of the kind offer of Mrs. Geere and Miss Lamb of giving me compleat satisfaction this evening. It is what I always have when I am in company with them and you. If they recollect that I was to dine there, signify to them the reason that prevents, which you will believe yourself is the only one that could prevent me. Yours,

E. HASKELL.

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FROM ELNATHAN HASKELL.

We have been fast tied by the teeth, and I did not break loose until your note arrived. If I can disengage myself I will see you this evening, but I am told it will be difficult.

Freeman I have seen and tomorrow evening we will card him. Yours,

E. HASKELL.

[BOSTON, December 3, 1786.]

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

[WETHERSFIELD, January, 1787.]

Dear Brother:

Your's I have Recd., and confess to you I am surpriz'd to hear our Brother has not arriv'd. He sail'd on the 28th Nov., and to appearance as fine a time as one could boast of; but upon reflection I recollect the wind was better to run off the Coast than to the Southard. Those vessels that went out with him had but ten, eleven and twelve days passage to the *West Indies*. To answer the part of your letter, I can say he was well Man'd, Navigated by fine Seamen in abundance, and had a most superb Sloop, as good one as swims in water.

God grant all may be well. I trust if they arrive we must soon hear, and I wish and think they will do well.

As to Colo. H——, between you and I, I can't think He will relinquish it, for I believe He's quite out of Business. He's not here, or I would sift him — that is round about. I could find out incog. I could with ease have obtain'd the berth at first. As to money, Oh Brother, there is hardly any such thing amongst us. I am rideing Day and Night, but get little more than to carry on the necessary Law Suits to secure Debts. I want to write you a long Chit Chat letter. Has McEvers assigned all over to his Creditors? Who are his Creditors? What is their object? What is the Law, should they push? He's within the Law of being within the British Lines, I suppose. Write me fully. I wish you would [engage] in some advantageous Business. So do I wish I was; and indeed between you and I, could I stock my works it would be a genteel living,

and this place woud be clever for the *Webbs* old Mansion place. How shall I obtain this great object?

Addressed: General Saml. B. Webb, New York. Per stage.

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JOSEPH WEBB TO THOMAS LEVERETT.

Dear Leverett:

The Business *I begun* on Paper for you was for a blind. I hope you find your Health mending. Depend on it, my friend, you must pay attention, or your Constitution is ruined. You may now mend, and indeed entirely recover if you will; all depends on your attention. More I need not say. Has Shipman of Glastenbury arrived in [New] York? Has He got any Hides? What is the price of Hides, and other things in York? What is the reason you have not wrote me? When do you expect to return? How do you like the Gay Town? Tell Aunt Polly Duyckinck I am sorry she's not here. The things she sent all arrived in good *Order* and pleased. Butler was married last Thursday Evening to Polly Belden; had nobody there but Relations. Its a matter of much speculation. Except Mit[chell], March—— and Porter, those *three familys*, no other are pleased with the Match, I believe. So much chit chat at her Disadvantage makes me sorry, altho I think she's been a fool to have him. But after all shes young and knows no better — a poor silly —. I say nothing.

I wish you woud call on Mr. Thos. Ivers, and get him to state his Acct. with Silas Deane; also with me.

I have the pleasure to tell you that the new Bell is ar-

rived, and we have placed it on 4 Hogsheads, so that we have sounded it, and it pleases.

Justus Riley went to New London on Tuesday last, and is not yet return'd. I deliv'd the wife the Letter Colo. Webb Requested. Yr H. Servt.,

JOS. WEBB.

January 15th, 1787.

I sent per James Bull a Calve Skin for G. G. Beekman, to be left with Edward Gould.

I wish you woud find Thos. Hazard the Currier, used to work for Denny, now in York. I lent him a Guinea, which get of him and four years' Interest at 7 p ct.

Addressed: Mr. Thomas Leverett, to the care of General S. B. Webb, New York.

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FROM HENRY W. LIVINGSTON.

Mr. Henry W. Livingston presents his Compliments to Genl. Webb, and requests the favor of his Company to pass the evening on Wednesday next.

Wednesday Morning, [17th January, 1787.]

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Thursday Mornng,  
January 18, 1787.

Dear Brother:

I was writing you this Mornng., and the stage past in haste, and I coud not have time to close it, date or anything, only in the manner you recd. it. I sent it. I thot

in its rough state it woud convince you I had recd your letter and let you know we had not heard of our Brother. I wish I could say I was not anxious, but yet as the winds was when He left New London, he may yet be well; but at best he's had a long disagreeable voyage.

I hope you are on friendly terms with McEvers. What is He about? What am I to do? Will He, after what I have done for him, Assign over my Debt without consulting me; with his other Debts, if they push? He was within the British lines. Your Laws I suppose give him no advantage better than others that staid within the Lines except confiscation, but liable to be paid in public Securities. This to yourself. Weigh and find out round about, and write me fully. I look upon Charles *the Elder* a good man; but as to any of the family, or even Jemmy, I have no good opinion of their lenity. Jemmy loged here last evening and appears to be vastly clever and friendly. He advises me by all means to come to York and make terms with the ASSIGNEES. Those Assignees are his Brother and Law. By Leverett write me fully, and send me the paper that has His Assignments in. If He is not attentive to me He's ungrateful to the last degree. Charles McEvers ought in conscience to reserve that Debt from Assignment, for I sav'd him ten times more than all my Debt. Cant you find out by Charles the Elder, what his determination is, and what his sentiments are? Woud you advise me to come to York? Do me all the service you can with Alsop and King. Your sister Webb is extremely well, and desires to be rememb'd. She has road out. She and so is all the rest of your friends Chagrin'd that we had so little of *your time*. I wish you woud tell Ebenr. Hazard he ought to indulge us with a post office in



this Town. Jared Burr will take it. Mitchell will assist you.

Yr. H Servt as well as most Afft Br. and friend,

J. WEBB.

I owe Ch. McEvers

Augustus Vanhorn

The debt of Alsop or King

Perry, Hayes and Sherbrooke

G. G. Beekman

Wm. Denning

D. Phenix (cant hurt me)

Broome & Co. owe me

(Morton Estate, to be settled by agremt. here to mutual satisfaction between Root and me.)

Jere Wadsworth goes from here for York next Monday with Harriot.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

NEW HAVEN, February 9th, 1787.

At Pierpont Edwards's.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Brother:

I have recd. no letter from you since my two last. I wish you to write me a long circumstantial letter in answer to all I have wrote you. I must confess to you I am extremely anxious about our Brother *Jack*. Not a word have I heard since He sail'd from *New London*. He left this place on the 28th November. I dare not venture to let your Sister Webb know my Anxiety about him. I tell her the Westerly Winds have drove him off to the *West*

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<sup>1</sup> Son of Rev. Jonathan Edwards, and a judge of the United States District Court.

*Indies.* Do write me often. *No one can be so busy*, but He may snatch away from hurry time enough to answer his friends letters. I have recd the *new Bell* from London, and errected it, and a most excellent one it is, weighg. 1600 lbs. This will be sent you by Mrs. *Bull*. Joseph Bull will soon return from York; by him you can send me the Accts. I wrote you for. The Mems you left with me will soon be compleated, and I will send you the things by some team to New Haven, and from New Haven by water if you request it. I am here to close my Accts. with Broome, which I hope I shall close to my mind.

Yr. H. Servt. and most Afft. Br.,

J. WEBB.

Joseph Barrell wants a Bottle of Genuine Mardant's *Drops*. Send it direct to him or me, and I will forward it. Do not fail the first oppt., as He wants it much for one of his children.

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FROM ELNATHAN HASKELL.

BOSTON, February 11th, 1787.

My Dear Webb:

I received your two favors, for which I am indebted and hold myself reprehensible, at a moment when many objects of a military nature and therefore of importance were pressing so close upon me,<sup>1</sup> as to leave not even leisure to pay a debt justly tho' not often due. Prove me again in the same way, and the oftener the more you will evince your friendship, and I promise never to be so far in arrears. I told Hetty what I had wrote you, and she was hurt on

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<sup>1</sup> In connection with Shays' rebellion.

the same point I find you winch. I will not again offend your feelings on this head, but leave it to its own operation to determine whether you or myself know what we are. Your sister says we believe the same thing of each other. That is we both suspect the weakness of the other in a certain matter, while each is sure of his own strength. It was extreme goodness, was it not, for a young lady to advance even to a something not short of a declaration to you, because she conceived the happiness of him she declared in favor of concerned. This no doubt was the real situation, and such tenderness, tho' unsuccessful yourself, you must needs admire. The expedient shows resource of mind, and I hope it has succeeded to every one's expectation. There, will be done.

What can I do? They will not write to me. Do they speak to you? If so, ask one who looks the best natured towards me, if you dare to write me what they will not write. At the same time my correspondence is at an end — not with you. Yours,

E. H.

Write me by every conveyance.

Addressed: General S. B. Webb, New York. Hon'd by Mr. Thorp.

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TO ELNATHAN HASKELL.

N YORK, Wednesday Evening,  
20th February, 1786 [1787.]

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 18th Instant was handed me this morning by Mr. Flint, together with the ballance due me. It would have been more pleasing had the amount been vested in New York finals, or Continental Loan Office Certificates.

Should you proceed in further purchases on the conditions stated in my letter of the 14th Instant. (which was forwarded by Major Swan), you may draw on me for the amount payable at sight, not however to exceed One Thousand Dollars; and if you have a mind to risk an equal share of profits, without any charge of Commissions or other expense, I have no objections. Of this, however, please to notify me before, or at the time of forwarding the paper.

In the course of conversation this Evening with Mrs. [blank] your name [for the first time since my arrival in Town] was mentioned by me. This brought on something respecting your letter, when I took occasion to mention you had shown it me in Boston. It was not expressed by you as a secret, nor have I an idea you wish'd it; I, however, have thought it my duty to give you this information; the Father and Daughter were both out, no offer was made of your letters. I should do injustice to Mrs. [blank] did I not say she spoke of you in very respectfull terms, and particularly said "she always had an esteem for you." I have been induced to inform you of this conversation, as in a late letter I assured you not a word had been said of you (to me) by the persons alluded to since my return from Boston, and I shall not fail of informing them I have given you this information as I wish not to do or say anything which may ever appear disingenuous. I cannot, my friend, altogether justify your conduct. I do not think you have acted with all that candor which you ought in a business of such magnitude; not however that I know it will give the Lady the least uneasiness, for I have not heard a sentiment on the subject since I left you; but I confess if she is happy, it must be owing more to her own

resolutions than your propriety of conduct. The subject, however, I believe painfull to you, and I will not longer dwell on it. I hope we shall soon see you here, when I shall take the liberty of again pressing you to say in person what I advised you to write — that is, provided your sentiments are the same as when we last conversed together. Capt. Phillips goes for Boston in a few days; by him you shall hear from me, but not a word about females, nor is it my wish ever again to touch the subject. Tell my Sister H. I will write her; she shall no longer complain of the neglect of her Brother and your friend,

S. B. WEBB.

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FROM WALTER LIVINGSTON.

Mr. Walter Livingston presents his compliments to Genl. Webb, and requests the pleasure of his company at dinner tomorrow on Salmon with a few friends.

Thursday [NEW YORK, March, 1787.]

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

Not a line from Jack Webb since the first without date. I hope you have and can acquaint me what they are all about. I find you more neglectful in answering my letters than I am yours. Pray answer all the questions I put to you from time to time, as they may render me essential service. I have sent to Windsor, East Hartford, and the rounds about, but without any success for Salmon. The water is muddy and too *high*. I shall remember you in due *season*, provided they are caught.



I wish you would write me the price of Cabin and steerage passengers from [New] York to Georgia, as a vessel will soon go from Hartford, and I am about sending some Barrels to Jack, and He says the price is York price and knows no other. This leaves things quite uncertain. I am,  
Dear Sam,

Your Most Affect. Broth,  
JOS. WEBB.

March 19th 1787.

Pray have you sent forward my letters to London? When you have a private Opport. to Georgia I wish you would enclose the letters to Jack that I sent you for his work people, and others. His first Captain of the Vessel, Nott, has got home, but has never Call'd on me. I suppose He and Jack have fallen out. I wish Br. Jack would command his Temper more for his own sake; but in this case I do not know who is most to blame or either. I sent you a pair Boot Legs, soals, &c. from Denny. He is not so much to blame as you may think. He is hurt you think so, but he has had none that would please you, besides what belonged to other people. He will endeavor to please you in a thiner pair in the Month of April. I should be too happy had I a full supply of stock. What can be done? I must devise ways and means somehow or somehow. Yr. H. Servt. and Afft. Br.,

J. WEBB.

I have advised Barrell to take Nancy and go by water to [New] York, and so up the North River to Lebanon Pool. I believe very much in the waters. I assure you I believe they would help her in Twenty Days.

FROM ELNATHAN HASKELL.

BOSTON, March 11th, '87.

My Dear Sir:

Yours I have dated the 28th ulto. If you was Minister of the United Netherlands, or in any other public employment or in private keeping, you could not appear more in haste than you commonly do when you write any of your friends. This I believe commonly happens with people in your and my situation. To set down in a cool formal deliberate manner to answer a letter to a friend is what I seldom do, but wait until the last moment, and then am compelled to scribble in such monstrous haste as renders it almost unintelligible. This will be a proof in point.

The Dulcinea of your affections in this quarter appears every day more amiable and attracts universal admiration. Her public appearance at the last assembly was beyond description elegant. She is a charming girl. She sings, plays upon the Harpsichord, and dances, to use the common expression on beings so perfect, divinely. I spoke to her of you. You are a happy man if you would but improve the favorable opinion she entertains of you.

It is probable the Troops from this state will march soon, and for the westward — Springfield and Berkshire.

Your Sisters are well, and uncommonly well pleased at your industry of writing nearly two lines in their favor or about them, rather. Yours &c.,

E. H.

Addressed: B. Genl. S. B. Webb, New York. Post.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

1st April, 1787.

As I was Rideing about eight Days since, My Horse's fore legs of a sudden broke thro the frost and hove me off, then fell upon me, so as to break Two of my Ribbs, wounded another, and bruise my Head very much, so that I look as if I had been to an Irish wedding. I expect to be well in a few days. I walk about House, and have walked in the Garden this Day. I have thro much anxiety, troable, and vexation, at last got a *Salmon*, which will Cost as much as it comes to. I wish it may come in good Order. The water has been high and muddy, so that a vast number of fine fellows have escaped our nets, and, indeed, this is the only one been caught in Town. I have sent to Windsor and East Hartford, and coud get none. Forward my letters to London and to Georgia. I wish you woud write me more fully about Jack. Is there Vessels going constantly to *Savanna*? I must send him some Negroes and some N. E. Rum. He says &c., &c. We are out of Choice good Tea. My love to Aunt Polly and the Circle. Your affectionate Br.,

JOS. WEBB.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

I send you by the Stage three Salmon

One weighs  $36\frac{3}{4}$ I Do  $27\frac{3}{4}$ I Do  $27\frac{1}{4}$ 
 $81\frac{3}{4}$  which cost 6d L[awful] m[oney] per  
p[ound].

The one sent you cost 9*d*. I suppose by tomorrow Night they may be down to 3*d*. I know not what you intend about them, or how [to] divide them. They will Cost you much I fear (but do you recollect my friends Jno. [*seal*], G. G. Beekman, Mrs. Sherbrooke, A. Vanhorn; in short I shall say nothing about them.

I inclose you some Letters to forward to Georgia. Remember us about some *Tea*, as we are out of Good. I have debeted the Salmon and Box to you for the present. Write me often, and let me know how you all do, and how you get along. Yr Aft. Br.,

JOS. WEBB.

April 4th, 1787.

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FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

Boston, May 26, 1787.

Dear Sam:

Inclosed you will find a letter for Capt. Green. After you have perused it, seal and deliver it *inter nos*. I think he has not used me well by any means. I wish however to have the matter settled amicably, and try what can be done in that line; but if he is not disposed to do me Justice I must insist on your endeavours to see it is done. You'll see I want first the sales of the goods which he disposed of, which were the best of what was returned, and cost in China about 2100 Dollars. I must beg you will attend to this, and press him for his Accounts untill he gives them to you. This will be handed by Mr. Pintard, who will return immediately here by him. I wish you to write me

fully. Nancy remains yet the same. The rest of the Family are well.

I am, Dear Sam, Your friend and Brother,

JOS. BARRELL.

Addressed: Sam'l B. Webb, Esq., at New York. Favor Mr. Pintard.

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FROM JOHN MEIGS.

MIDDLETOWN, May 29th, 1787.

Sir:

I have been waiting the pleasure of seeing you for some time past, but your not having made a visit in this state has induced me to write you a Line at this time. I have desired Mr. Parsons the bearer of this letter to wait on you, and provided you have any Mony for the final settlements, shall be much obliged to you to remit it by him, as I am necessitated for Cash at this time, which will greatly oblige, Yours sincerely,

JOHN MEIGS.

Addressed: Brigdr. Genl. Saml. B. Webb, New York. Fav'd by Mr. Parsons.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

Its a long time since I have heard from you. When do you and Aunt Polly think of coming this way? Pray if you cant come, let her come in some friend's care, and I will pay the Stage. Am[os] B[u]ll attempts to get a Bill of divorce from Mrs. B[ull]; its put over untill October Sessions. Where is She? What is her character? When



did you hear from Brother Jack? He begs we would not forget we have a Brother in Georgia. I have not heard from him since 27th March. What says our worthy friend Sherbrooke? Yr. H. Servt as well as affectionate Brother,  
JOS. WEBB.

June 11th, 1787.

Have you sent my Letters to Effingham Lawrence? And if they are gone, pray let me know by whom. Please to forward all the Letters to Georgia in due season. Between you and me I have had an Arbitration with Saml. Browne, and they brot. in my favor a Balance due me, but not enough. I know this will give you satisfaction, as He once Chatted with you on the subject as tho I owed Him.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York. Per Mr. Stores.  
1 little Bundle.

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FROM SAMUEL HODGSON.<sup>1</sup>

PHILADELPHIA, 13th June, 1787.

Dear Sir:

On my return from a southern tour I found your favour of the 15th ultimo, advising of your drafts for 82 dollars Paper Money, which when presented shall be duly honoured. Your three Tickets Nos. 1061, 63 and 67 are prizes of 25 dollars each; the other is a Blank. The tickets must be produced previous to payment. You will please to enclose them for that purpose.

With esteem I am, dear Sir, Your most obedient servant,  
SAML. HODGSON.

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<sup>1</sup> A partner in business of Timothy Pickering.

## FROM ELNATHAN HASKELL.

BOSTON, June 17th, 1787.

Since my return, Dear Sir, from the country, where I was detained much longer than I intended to have been, your favors of the 20th May and 2nd June were handed to me. Your polite intentions to Major Erving he expressed to me yesterday, and lamented the weather was such as prevented him making with you a visit to the several strong grounds and fortifications in the vicinity of New York.

Not long since there was a probability of my visiting your city, which I have now altogether given up the idea of, or if I do, it is at a distance from this period. Boston will be my place of residence during the warm season, not of necessity but of choice, where I shall expect you soon. Since my return only two days ago, I have not seen Tyler. From him I shall learn your mischief, and I promise you that the most ill natured use possible shall be made of it, unless you in person communicate that part of it with which he is unacquainted. Barrel I see yesterday, who tells me no alteration has taken place at his house. We conversed of you, and both wished it had been to you. There is a rage for politics and Arms existing in Boston, tho in everything there prevails a violent opposition. Now is your time to visit it. I continue a spectator in all things, and it will be an improvement to have your assistance.

All the artillery of party rage is levelled in the House of Representatives, but insurgency, tho' it bellows loud, is silenced by the well directed fire of two Governmental pieces — Sedgwick and [Theophilus] Parsons. Yours adieu.

E. HASKELL.

FROM CARY LUDLOW.<sup>1</sup>

NEW YORK, July 9, 1787.

Dear Sir:

The Executors of Mr. Charles Crooke<sup>2</sup> deceased have repeatedly been called upon by the Legatees, &c., for their dividends of the Estate, and their necessities are such that they have lately put the bonds of the said estate in my hands for the purpose of collecting them in, with positive directions to have them immediately prosecuted unless forthwith discharged. Among them I find a bond given by Mr. Richd Banker, dated 11 March, 1761, conditioned for the payment of £200, on which the Interest is due from March, 1775. I have long since had similar directions respecting a bond of £100 due to James Devereux, with Int. from May, 1775. I shall feel myself happy if this business could be accommodated by my friend without an Increase of charges.

From His Humble Servt.,

CARY LUDLOW.

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FROM JAMES SEAGROVE.

SAVANNAH, Sunday afternoon, 22 July, 1787.

Dear Sam:

I certainly should not give you the Trouble of a line at this time was not the opportunity so very inviting, and just to thank you most kindly for the many long Letters and full information you promised, which have never yet found their way to Georgia. I still live in hope that I am

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<sup>1</sup> Surrogate in New York after the peace.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Crook, merchant of New York, left a wife Anneke, and children, John, Charles, and Cornelia. Cornelia married a Ludlow.

not totaly lost in your remembrance, tho' I fear in your Esteem; at least in your attention. Trust all this has not lessened one jot or tittle my affection and Friendship for you, and only hope when you spare a moment from the service of your Female Friends, you would think of the unfortunate Exile.

J. SEAGROVE.

Mrs. S. desires best respects.

Addressed: Brigr. Genl. Saml. B. Webb, New York. By Major Webb.

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FROM ELNATHAN HASKELL.

BOSTON, August 26th, '87.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 2nd instant was handed me on the 23rd, with the enclosures. The letter was delivered to your sister, and the Chancellor's oration,<sup>1</sup> for which I return you Brooks's<sup>2</sup> with my thanks, shall be disposed of as you direct. Daws's performance would afford you little amusement or instruction.<sup>3</sup> It is in my opinion a production which would have been expected from a promising school boy, and nothing more. This to your self.

Shaw was on the eve of departure before I was acquainted with his being in Town. I wish I could have seen more of him. He has told me the amiable fair one (for still do you not think such and more of her, and why may not I) has gone to be benefited by the Springs of Lebanon. Gallantry

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<sup>1</sup> Robert R. Livingston's oration before the New York Society of the Cincinnati, 1787.

<sup>2</sup> John Brooks' oration before the Massachusetts Society, 1787.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Dawes, oration on July 4, 1787.

should have dictated, and you complied with it, the guarding her steps upon such a rugged rout, and secure her from vulgar attacks in her bathing and unguarded moments. By a judicious arrangement you might have lavished to yourself a sight no mortal eye has yet been ravished with. Her polished limbs exposed to view you have often dreamed of; but to realize would be an immortal feast. To me however, who am not easily warmed, there appears a stain upon her conduct which cannot be effaced by all the waters which the imagination is capable of conceiving of.

If at periods when irritation has powerfully operated I have lessened her merits and heightened her foibles, it was not with a malicious intention to injure. Cooler reason convinces she has many virtues and but few faults. They are blended as in other fairest characters. Of this however you, who have the advantage of two pair of Eyes, will and ought to be the sole judge. Yours In haste Adieu.

E. HASKELL.

Addressed: Saml. B. Webb, New York. Honored by Mr. Shaw.

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FROM ELNATHAN HASKELL.

BOSTON, August 31st, 1787.

Dear Webb:

I wrote you by Shaw, enclosing Brooks's oration, since which I have received yours of the 20th. I had conceived previous to the receipt of this letter that I had returned two for one, and that there was greater reason to expect being chided for having over shot the mark than falling short.



On that point I am at ease, and sit down to give you 2/6 postage, which is more than this can be worth.

I am well pleased with the prospects of Fanny. There is something in the recollection of the good opinion we have entertained of another that gratifies us on hearing of their prosperity, although they may have long since forfeited their merit. Or to see a person in affliction from unworthiness that has once been the object of our affection would give poignancy even to pain itself. In the present instance without being violently moved by one or the other of these emotions I think she may become, if married, *the very fine lady*, to a fine gentleman.

You mention respecting my letters and having asked for them. It is long since that my ultimatum was forwarded, and I believe by you. My never having received an answer either to this or any other, nor my request in having those letters returned not complied with, is construed by me into an intentional insult. Whether the insult is more to themselves or to me I will not pretend to determine.

I am very glad you persevere in your intention of coming to Boston, and I hope you will bear off Platt at the same time.

The precise time for the departure of the Fleet is not fixed. They will be seen if you arrive in all September.

Tyler<sup>1</sup> has been in town frequently of late, and is constantly unfolding amiable and witty talents.

Mr. Barrel and family are well. Your sister spotless except in her love of you, which with all your faults she still feels and expresses. Whenever I can prevail upon her

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<sup>1</sup> Royall Tyler, jurist, and author of the "Contrast," the first American play acted by an established company of comedians.

to join with me in abuse of you I shall consider it as the strongest evidence of my influence over her.

I heard of the indisposition of your Brother soon after his arrival. Tell him I ardently wish his recovery, and therefore recommend him to the healthy climate and tender care of Connecticut. Your eternal watchings will wear him out. Or has he like the rest of the family learned to live without sleeping? I tell Hetty that she may with very little trouble become immortal, for she neither eats, drinks, nor sleeps. In haste, I am your friend and Obt Servt.,

E. HASKELL.

Freeman says you are a promising young man. He will be married soon to Mrs. Brown. She is not worth much money, and has a daughter 16 or 17 years old.

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FROM SCHENCK AND VAN BUREN.

MILLSTON, 22 October, 1787.

Sir:

Inclosed you have the letter written by Mr. John Duyckinck, which our A. VanBuren informed you he left. We shall this day call on Mr. Duyckinck; shou'd we agree with regard to the price and the payments to be made to him, will inform you imediately — tho' it is very probably we may not, unless he makes a considerable abatement, as their has been a misunderstanding in the Business. We are, Sir, your H'ble Servants,

SCHENCK and VAN BUREN.

FROM JONATHAN FREEMAN.

Dear Webb:

BOSTON, 9 October, 1787.

By Major Sargent have sent your Buckles, executed in my Opinion with taste. I hope they will find favor in your sight.

Inclos'd you have the Bill of them, and I shall thank you to send me in return three Hd. of *Fishes*, such as you informed might be bought for four Dollars, *genuine pearl*.

The remainder you'll please to invest in silk stockings, if they can be bot of the first Quality for 15/ L[awful] M[one]y per pair large size. As to the taste of them, in recommending them to your good Opinion I know I shall be fully satisfied.

I cou'd not come to Barrell's the night before you left Town; the Genl. did not leave me till after 12 o'clock.

My best Love, Compts., &c., attend you ever, but I am in great haste, tho' with equal sincerity your Friend, &c.,  
JONA. FREEMAN.

You'll please to send me the Pearl Fishes and by Barnard.

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FROM JONATHAN FREEMAN.

Dear Webb:

BOSTON, 10th October, 1787.

I sent Letters by Major Sargent for you and Jack Tuesday last, but his delay gives me an Oppto. to renew my wish that the Buckles may please you. They were made as you desir'd, one stud smaller each way. If any Friend wishes a pattern to make a pair like yours, please to refer them to the maker. By a similar answer I have preserv'd the pattern almost to myself these five years.

You wont forget the Fishes by Barnard, and the Bala. with a small sum which *perhaps* Jack may have of mine, you will do me a particular favor to invest in Table Cloths and towels, half of each for common use; the Table cloths to be at about 12/ or 15/ our money, and Towels as cheap as you can get them, common napkins, the Table Cloths to be two yds square.

These articles pay 15 p. C. Impost here, and are consequently very dear. In haste, with Friendship, yours,

JON. FREEMAN.

I would not trouble you with such a petty Memo., but I know not (if Jack gets five or six Guineas for my watch as he intends) how to get the proceeds back.

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FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, 11th October, 1787.

Dear Sam:

I hav'nt heard whether you died on the journey, or arrived safe at New York. Let me be informed if you are yet alive. The Newton Pippens, large fine and pickt by hand, *two* barrils; the Hudson Strawberries, send as many as you can, and as soon as you please. The *Medals*, the *Medals!* Alas, I havn't it in my power to send by this oppt., as I've had a New one made for the one that sunk in, and just as it was finished an Accident ruined it. Another will be finished *tonight*, and by the next oppt. you shall have them.<sup>1</sup> Will you enquire of Mr. Murray what

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<sup>1</sup> Probably one of the medals sent out by Barrell and his associates with the ships *Columbia* and *Washington* to Nootka Sound and the Sandwich Islands.

is done about Gearey's Matters, and what is yet necessary to be done.

Tell Aunt Polly I never expect to see her, and if I don't I shall be mortified. Sally and Hetty are both pretty well, as are my little ones. Adieu.

Your Friend and Brother,

JOS. BARRELL.

Addressed: Saml. B. Webb, New York. Per Major Sargent.

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FROM AUGUSTUS VAN CORTLANDT.

LOWER YONKERS, Nov. 29th, 1787.

My Dear General:

I shall esteem it a favor to have a settlement of Mr. Bancker's bond. I think last month was fourteen years since the Same was given, and only one year's Interest paid. Something, therefore, must soon be done, as I don't wish others to have the preference, by pursuing such measures as I do not by any means wish to take. If my information be true, Ths. Marston<sup>1</sup> intends soon to sue for principal and interest, and I see nothing to prevent recovering both, the time of payment or tendring security, mentioned in the 3d. proviso of an act of the Legislature passed the last Session, being six months from the passing of said act, expired the 20th of October now last past. He, as well as myself, are now on a footing with those who were out of the lines, or as if no act had ever passed relative to debts due to persons within the enemy's lines. Should Mr. Marston nevertheless proceed, you will still have it in your

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Marston was son of Nathaniel and Mary (Crook) Marston. He married Amelia Lispenard, and died in 1814.



power to give me the preference, or put me in a situation with him by enabling me to obtain a Judgment by Confession. I shall be glad to hear from you on the subject; in the interim I remain with much respect. Your most obedt. Servt.,

AUGUST VAN CORTLANDT.<sup>1</sup>

Addressed: General Webb. Favor'd by Mr. White

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FROM THOMAS SMITH.

Sir:

Mr. John R. Myer has put into my hands a Bond against the Estate of Mr. Rich'd Bancker, in order to prosecute for the Money Due thereon. As I understand you are the Representative to that Estate, he has requested me to call upon you to Discharge the Debt, which he says you Engaged to do some time ago. I beg your answer and am your most Obt. and very Humble Servt.,

THOS. SMITH.

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FROM JOSEPH BARRELL.

BOSTON, 8th December, 1787.

Dear Sam:

By the last post I inclosed you my Acct against Capt. Green, and I hope ere this reaches you you will have settled it with him and have received the money, which I shall be very glad to hear; for such has been my want of that root of evil, that I've been obliged to dispose of all my Bridge Stock which I should not on any terms, but the want thereof have consented to.

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<sup>1</sup> A brother of Anne, wife of Augustus Van Horne.

I have this day drawn on you in favr. Mr. Cromerias for 333 $\frac{1}{3}$  Dollars at five days, but I wish you to pay on sight. I put the five days in case he should want the hard [money] to get it in; and if he does demand specie, pay it him, tho' I hope the person he sends it to may like the Currency better. As I wrote you in my last to purchaise finals, if you have done it, dispose of them again enough to raise this sum, or if you could not readily do that, you may redraw on me at 3 days, and I will pay it, tho' I do not suppose you have invested the money yet. I observe there is some Ordinance of Congress respecting the payment of the prize money of the ship *Alliance*.<sup>1</sup> I wish you would inquire into the matter, and lay in a claim in my behalf for what is coming to my Negro, who went by the name of Jube Blodget, the same person who had given a power to some person which you informed me some time ago; therefore I wish you to see immediately about the matter, and prevent my losing everything by the Rascal. We are all pretty well. Hetty and Sally join in love to you and Aunt Polly. Why will you not do the needful respecting Murray in Gearey's matters.

I am, Dr. Sam, Your friend and brother,

JOSEPH BARRELL.

If you will let a Silver smith file and polish the edges of your Medal and have it properly cleaned, it will look better than the Silver one.

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Addressed: Samuel B. Webb, New York. Pr. Post.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Journals of the Continental Congress*, October 11, 1787.

<sup>2</sup> The postage was one shilling ten pence.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Br:

I wonder I do not hear from you on my Affairs. I expected more particulars. What do you mean by your hints I have not concluded all the Names of my Creditors? Do write me often, as I am on the rack of suspense. Jack Webb sailed for Georgia the 2d December. I think he's had a fine time. I have much to say but this Opp'ty will not permit. Write me fully per the return of this post. Jack Webb went away in good spirits. Give my love to Sherry, McEvers, &c. Call on them often for a little time for my sake. All the family are well.

Adieu Yr Afft. Br.

JOS. WEBB.

[WETHERSFIELD,] Decr. 10th, 1787.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York.

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FROM WINTHROP SARGENT.

26th Jany. 1788, BOSTON.

This, My Dear Webb, is the 3d letter I have wrote you without a word of Reply. My last was by the way of Providence with Six Maps, one for yourself, one for General Knox, one for St. John, one for Capt. Hutchins and the other two for [Sebastian] Bauman and Platt.

I intend being in York about the middle or 20th of next month, provided I have reason to suppose that our Governor will be there, on my way to the Western Country, where my Dear Fellow I wish most sincerely you would go at least to take a look at the country, and if you have not Business to engage you here it will really be well disposing

of yourself, and you will receive more satisfaction than at this distance you may promise yourself.

I shall stay about two weeks in York, and should like to have Lodgeings near you that we *might visit* together, &c., and pass our Leisure moments in social friendly chat. Look out for me. Adieu and believe me yours affectionately,

W. S.

Remember me respectfully at the Corner.

Addressed: Hon'ble Gen'l Samuel B. Webb, New York.

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FROM RICHARD NEAVE, JUNIOR, TO MRS. BANNER.

PHILADELPHIA, 18 February 1788.

Madam:

I am much surpriz'd that you have not favor'd my Father with an Answer to his Letter dated the 3d of December, 1786, which he wrote concerning the Annuity of Mrs. Stables, who has suffer'd greatly by your refusal of her Bills and not complying with your Engagement of keeping her regularly paid. I cannot help saying, Madam, that your Conduct in this Affair has been most Ungenerous both to her and my Father, as you have never made her one payment, and that what she has receiv'd was paid by him and charg'd to your late Husband's Acct., which you may see by referring to it. I shall only add on this Subject that I expect you will give us a full and satisfactory Answer to this matter by return of the Bearer, Mr. Joseph Carson.

With regard to your late Husband acct. with Richd. Neave & Son, the Ballance was as by the Acct. transmitted him £1636. 13. 2. Sterling on the 31st Decemb., 1774, since

which there is to the Credit of it (agreeable to a Note you delivered me the last time I had the pleasure of seeing you) £82. 6. 1 Sterling. One article in it of £3. 6. 0 Sterling for Recording Mrs. Stables Deed we cannot allow, as she would not pay it; alledging that as you paid no part of the expence of drawing the Deed, you ought not to make any charge for recording it, being generally the practise when no agreement is made respecting it, that the cost is divided between the Parties. You will find that the above Ballance is nearly all due, as there is at least six Months Interest to be added to the Acct. to the time when Mr. B. died.

I flatter myself you will not think me unreasonable after Thirteen years being Elaps'd that I now ask you to pay unto my Friend aforesaid a few Hundred Pounds towards Discharging this heavy Debt, particularly as you cannot forget the cause of a great part of it not being paid before his death; for I well remember his mentioning it to me with much confusion and regret. I shall hope to hear on Mr. Carson's return that you have complied with my request, and remain with respect, Madam, Your most obedt. Servt.,

RICHD. NEAVE, JUNIOR.

Addressed: Mrs. Bancker, widow of Mr. Richard Bancker Deceas'd, living formerly in Hanover Square, New York: Honor'd by Mr. Carson.

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FROM WINTHROP SARGENT.

I thank you, my Dear Webb, for your polite friendly and affectionate Favor, and shall (be assured) call on you upon the first moment of my arrival. It will not be so soon as I had intended, as I am under the Necessity of attending



the Ohio Meeting in Providence the first Wednesday of March; from which place I will begin my Journey so that you may expect me very soon after we have finished our Business there, if the River be open.

I hope you will not forget to promote the Interests of our Friend C—t—r, as A—m—g has resigned. I know you are very capable of it, being form'd for [*torn*] as well as *soft* persuasion. Adieu, and believe me your affectionate

W. SARGENT.

I find amongst my Maps one with Col. Duer's name on it, which leads me to suspect I omitted sending him one to your care. How is it?

Wednesday, 20th of Feby. [1788], late at Night.

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FROM SCHENCK AND VAN BUREN.

NORTH BRANCH, 28th February, 1788.

Sir:

Our Ab. Buren called at your lodgings at the hour appointed, also a short time after, but did not find you in, and being obliged to leave Town the next morning. [We] are disappointed the Business was not arranged in order to obtain a Deed. Wou'd request you to send us a statement of the Acct., that we may ascertain the Balance due you per return of Capt. Voorhees.

We wish you to put the necessary papers in the hands of Wm. Patterson, Esq., to enable him to draw us a Deed and finally settle the Business; hope you will not subject us to any delay.

We cannot think of paying any advance on the New York

money, as our express agreement was that the payments shou'd be made in the paper currency of New York, which you agreed to. As soon as we receive the Deed shall give you a draft on Messrs. Rynean & John Suydam, at a short run, for the Balance. We are your Humble Servants,

SCHENCK & VAN BUREN.

Addressed: Samuel B. Webb, Esquire.

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FROM JONATHAN FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

BOSTON, 6th March, '88.

Dear Webb:

I want your kind assistance to procure Sea letters for the Brig. *Yorick*, Jonathan Caines, master, own'd by William Vans, Junior, of Salem, bound to any part of India.

My Friend Vans and I are speculating in a Voyage, and as my name cannot assist him in disposing of his cargo, and it may induce a large addition to my Taxes (which are, God knows, large eno' already) I am not known in the matter, and beg you not to mention my name in the Affair. Mr. Vans will himself be the Bearer of these Letters, and if you can in your large Circle of Connections and acquaintance procure any other Letters of an introductory kind, *such as will be* of service in the voyage, I will esteem it as a particular favor. I know your Intrest with all the great men, and you know how safely you may confide in any recommendations you give Mr. Vans. 'Tis our intention that the Brig. shou'd go to almost every part of India, and from that circumstance she will most probably be gone three years with a very respectable property, and

as Mr. Vans is already well acquainted in China and some other parts of India where he has been, we are in hopes to make some profitable Negotiations, and establish a house respectable there and here. Nothing you know has this Effect better than the recommendation of publick officers.

The Vessell will sail in all this month, or at farthest 1st April; her Cargo is only to take in.

Your kind and speedy attention therefore will be of great consequence to, Dear Webb, your friend, &c.

JONA. FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

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FROM JONATHAN FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

Boston, 23rd March, '88.

Dear Webb:

In my last to you requesting Sea Letters, &c., I forgot to mention Letters in particular to Coll. Fleury<sup>1</sup> at Isle de France. From your personal acquaintance I presume you will write it, and it may not be amiss to say to Gen. Knox that the Mr. Vans, who brought him Letters from Colo. Fleury last summer, is bound to the same port; if he has any, will be proud to take them.

I know how influential your request may be, and will be exceedingly oblig'd to you for the trouble you take in procuring what I wish; and I hope I need not assure you how much you may command any return that will be in the power of *your oblig'd* and affect. Friend & Humble Servt.,

JONA. FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

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<sup>1</sup> François Louis de Fleury, who rendered good service to the United States in the Revolution.

FROM SAMUEL HODGDON.

NEW YORK, 3d April, 1788.

Sir:

At your request I relate the following conversation between me and Mr. Morriss at General Knox's yesterday. Mr. Morriss asked me whether I recollected receiving a Letter containing a Number of Certificates, which was forwarded by him from you. Whether any part of them was your property, and whether I had advised you of the receipt of them previous to my answer to his address.

To which I replied that I did receive the Letter with all the Certificates which it ever contained; that I had no knowledge of your having any interest in them, they being sent from Mr. Joseph Barrell for similar purposes with many that I had previously received; that being from the proper documents I could not positively determine whether I had advised you of their arrival previous to his Letter to me; but that my usual mode of doing business emboldened me to say that if any answer was necessary, it was immediately given. These I think are all the facts that I enumerated relative to the letter or business, and is all that I know about it. I am, Sir, Your Most Obedient Servant,

SAMUEL HODGDON.

Postscript. From circumstances produced from memory I believe the Letter of the 27th of April was the first I wrote to you on the business.

The letter aluded to I found on my Table, being brought there when I was absent. The bearer of it I never knew.

SAMUEL HODGDON.

FROM JONATHAN FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

BOSTON, 13th April, 1788.

Dear Webb:

Yours of 30th March and 6th April found me confin'd to my Bed. The former induc'd me to retain the Vessell (which was then waiting and had been for a week for nothing else but those letters) till the following Thursday, when she put to sea, and I hope is now well on her voyage.

I hoped to send them this day to Mr. Vans by a vessell which sailed to the same port, but she is gone, and I have no hope of forwarding the letters now if I shou'd obtain them. Add to which it is Sunday, and no deposition or affidavit cou'd be taken, and to complete all, I am now lifted out of Bed and wrap't in a Blanket without any other covering, whilst I write this imperfect scroll, to thank you for your trouble and assure you I am sincerely yours,

JONA. FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

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FROM HENRY IZARD.

SAVANNAH, 26th April, 1788.

Dear Webb:

As I am told a vessel sails for Philadelphia tomorrow morning, I take that opportunity of informing you of our safe arrival after a passage of three weeks. I have not yet had time to deliver your letters, but you may depend upon it I shall make it my particular business to wait upon Mr. Seagrove tomorrow. Your brother is out of town. The tediousness of my passage will prevent my making any stay here, and you may expect me in New York by the



middle of May, and even till then appears almost an age. You know what a powerful Magnet attracts me there. I find that I am absolutely in love. You will hardly be able to read this scroll, but the hurry of a public house in which I have not been above half an hour, must plead my excuse. Adieu, believe me to be with the utmost regard, Your most sincere friend,

HENRY IZARD.<sup>1</sup>

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FROM JONATHAN FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

BOSTON, 11th May, 1788.

Dear Webb:

I wrote last month in haste, being then under a Disagreeable confinement, but as I am much better at present, I take the earliest oppt. to thank you more particularly for your kind favors, with a cordiall wish that I may have it in my power to return your kindness.

The Brig. *Yorick* had that name alter'd to the *Cadet* and her head with an Officer of our Company in complete uniform. This Mr. Vans was polite eno' to get accomplished without my knowledge, so that if you had obtain'd Letters for the *Yorick* they would have been useless. I have to request the favor of you to send all the Letters of Civility you was so kind as to offer, particularly those to Colo. Fleury, by any Vessell from your ports to the Isle of France for Mr. William Vans, Junior, under cover to Messrs. Jno. Monson & Co. Merchants at Bourbon; or if no Oppo. from your port, will thank you to send them to me, as in the course of next month I can send them. If you

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<sup>1</sup> Son of Ralph Izard, of South Carolina. His mother was Alice, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth De Lancey, of Westchester County, and granddaughter of Cadwallader Colden.

have no chance before, you will do me essential service by this transaction.

The Vessell having sail'd as I wrote you before your last came to hand, I could not obtain an affidavit from the Capt. or Mr. Vans who is ostensibly owner, but I can get a copy of their oaths to the Naval Officer where the register was taken from, and the Naval Officer's attestation, which if it will answer, I will forward to you instantly on receipt of the information. I hear with extreme concern that Mr. Jay's life is in danger. The loss of so good a man as I heard him represented to be, and so able a one as his writings demonstrate him to be, must affect the publick *most* sensibly. I know how valuable such men are in society by their scarcity. I hope to hear soon your State have rear'd another pillar to support the grand Building of Federal happiness. We want only good System to make us an envie'd Nation.

Dear Webb, let me hear from you soon, and believe me ever sincerely, Your friend and Humbl Servant,

JONATHAN FREEMAN, JUNIOR.

Do write me if you have heard from Jack latterly, and what he is about, &c.

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FROM THOMAS LAWRENCE.

MORRIS VALE, 25th May, 1788.

My Dear Sir:

Permit me to take the liberty of reminding you of your friendly and polite offer of procuring a Barrel of Shad for me from your Brother. I mentioned to Mrs. Lawrence the treat which you frequently gave me of them at your social Breakfast Table, and we are anticipating with pleasure a repast of the same kind this summer. I know your punctu-

ality and politeness, and I should not have taken the Liberty of reminding you of your promise on this occasion, but from the knowledge that your attention is a little more circumscribed by a favorite object.

I shall send my waggon to New Windsor the latter end of next week, when you will oblige me by sending it there, so that I may bring it from thence by that conveyance.

Mrs. Lawrence joins me in Compliments to you and believe me, Sir, with sincerity, Yr. Frd. and Hum. Servt.,

THO. LAWRENCE.

Direct the Shad for me at Morris Vale in Sussex, to the care of Mr. Wm. Ellison at N. Windsor, and send it by the N. Windsor Packet that comes every week from N. York.

Addressed: General Webb, Broadway, N. York. W. W. Morris, Esq.

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FROM JOHN COZINE.

Dear Sir:

My old Friend Mr. Cortlandt informs me, that he wrote to you some time ago respecting a Demand that he has against the Estate of the late Richd. Bancker. He is anxious to have it settled in some way or other, and will be content if you cannot conveniently raise the money to take your Bond and Mortgage. This he expects you will comply with. Please, Sir, to let me know your Resolution on this subject, as soon as possible, that I may acquaint Mr. Cortlandt therewith. I am with Respect your very humble Servt,

JNO. COZINE.<sup>1</sup>

June 17, 1788.

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<sup>1</sup> Son of Balm Johnson Cozine "of the Out Ward of the city of New York," on the Bloomingdale road.

FROM HENRY LIVINGSTON.

MANOR LIVINGSTON, June 28, 1788.

Dear Webb:

From the late rains Mr. P. Has been detained at the Manor till this day, and now the roads will detain us some what longer; for which reason I shall be prevented attending the meeting of the Honorable Order of the Cincinnati, as I must attend them to Lake George for perhaps the last time of our meeting; but shall be with you as soon as possible after my return, when I expect you will be able to return with me in the new chair that I am to exchange for my old one. See to this. Give my love to Mrs. Coventry and Betsy. Tell them I long to see them. Adieu. Yours sincerely,

HENRY LIVINGSTON.

Addressed: To Brigadier General Samuel B. Webb, Broadway, New York.

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FROM BENJAMIN CROOFOOT.<sup>1</sup>

PALMERTOWN, July 21st, 1788.

Sir:

I have Entred upon the Lot of which your honour gave me a writen for, and have not as yet Payed you your Rent, but that was oweing to my having had a Long fit of sickness. But Sir you need not bee unasey a bout it for I will pay you soon after harvest. Mr. Palmer sent me word that he had orders to Renter on the place which will bee a grate Damage to mee Sir I will pay you your Rent yerly and had payed you be fore now had I been well. Sir I expected to

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<sup>1</sup> A tenant on the Kayaderossares tract.

seen your honour heer beefore now to have given mee a Lease and pray Sir send mee word wht you in tend to do as soon as Posebell and so confideing in your Goodness I subscribe My self your honours varry humbel sarvent,

BENJ. CROOFOOT.

Addressed: To Ga'll Sam'll B. Webb. New York thes with care.

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FROM HENRY LIVINGSTON.

MANOR LIVINGSTON, August 11, 1788.

Dear General:

A few days since on my way to Salisbury I had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 3rd instant, which is the only one I have received from you and from which letter I am induced to believe that you did not receive mine of the 29th June.

Not hearing from you I was under the necessity of getting my chair repaired at Albany. I have had an apron made, a new carpet put in, and several other repairs done to it which cost me £5. 10., so that my chair is now as good as new; but notwithstanding that I will send it down by the first sloop which sails from this quarter, and I think in the exchange I ought to be allowed for the late repairs, at least for the new apron, which was not put to the chair when I bought it from Manley — that is 55/. But he ought to consider of all the repairs I have done to it. I will give him a reasonable odds, which odds you shall be the judge of, provided the chair has been painted and varnished by Mr. Barrow in Broad street, and it is in the form of a tub bottom, and as genteel a one as he could make, and he will take refined Bar Iron for pay, which I will send down as



soon I know the amount of the odds which I am to give. But money I have none, neither can I take it if money is required. You will pardon me my dear friend for giving you this trouble, and I shall consider this obligation as a marked renewal of your kindness.

Our sloop is now down, and if my chair comes down in time I wish you to send the new one up with her; if not in time send it by the sloop which brings mine down, and send the watch. I cannot come till fall; our furnace keeps me employed. Would to God I could prevail on you to come up and pass some time with me. Give my most sincere love to Mrs. C[ovenry] and Betsey, whom I beg you will kindly remember me too. I thank you for the respect and your kind wishes for my father; he desires his best respects to you and Mr. Coventry's family. I am,  
Dr. Webb, Your friend and Hbl. Servt.,

HENRY LIVINGSTON.

Addressed: To General Samuel B. Webb, Broadway, New York.

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FROM GULIAN VERPLANCK.

Monday Morning, [New York, August 18, 1788.]

Dear Sir:

I was last week at Brunswick, and enquired of Mr. [William] Patterson respecting the Business with Messrs. Schenck and Van Buren. He informed me that the Conveyance to them as Administrators would not be sufficient, and therefore wished for a statement of the Title, the particulars of which he has forgot, but remarks that they were satisfactory to Him at the time of executing the Mortgage. For your better satisfaction I wish you could make it con-

venient to see Mr. Patterson, or at least make application to Him. I am, Sir, with Esteem Your Humb. Servt.,

G. VERPLANCK.

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FROM WILLIAM WILLEMENT.

Mr. Willement presents his most respectfull Compliments to General Webb and requests he will indulge him with the use of a fowling piece, powderhorn, &c., for tomorrow. The bearer will take charge of them. Mr. W. recollects with pleasure and with thanks the polite offer he received from General W. when he lived under the same Roof with him, and is thereby encouraged to this application.

HANOVER SQUARE, Sep. 10, 1788.

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FROM JOHN CLARKE.

BOSTON, 1 October, 1788.

Dear Sir:

Knowing your politeness I take the liberty to request your attention to the bearer of this letter, Mr. Noyes. He is a very modest but very worthy man. He is on his way to Charleston, where he resided before the war. If you will show him your city, and give him any necessary information, the favour will be ever gratefully acknowledged by, Sir, Your Humb. Servt.

JOHN CLARKE.

Addressed: General Samuel Webb, New York. Hon'd by Mr. Noyes.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

I was happy to hear accidentally, not by your letter, that you had arrived safe to New York. I was in hopes to have been favored with a line before this, but I can wait no longer. I must write you and thank you for all your late attention to my Affairs. I hope I shall do the needful in due season to answer the expectation of my friends.

I wish to let you know my Eyes are better. I continue using Mr. Post's means. Let Livingston send to David Osborn for the Note as by the Accts. I delivd Osborn, unless you are willing to take the Note of Osborn's. Do as you think best. Write me per the first oppty. Stephen Chester has not yet moved to his house. Jemmy McEvers has recov'd 1200 L[awful] M[one]y, or 1600£ York of Thos. Seymour. He has call'd on me. I have conversed with him and shew'd him the Rect. He says He will not allow it, because it was given before the Death of his father and we had no right to pay Charles. This will not do for him; besides if it would, I think it would be ungenerous. Let me beg you the very day or next morning after to wait on Jemmy and examine the first entry of Charles' Book and his father's. The Rect. is dated June, 1768, for £100 on Charles, and Seventy pounds on his Brother Jemmy, which sum has never been allowed. Therefore, altho Charles is no body, yet the Seventy pounds and Interest must now be allowed me, which I hope He will do to you without trouble. Pray attend to collect what evidence you can so soon as you receive this. Write me fully. Say how de to Platt, the Lottonions,<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Lott family.

Haskell, and accept the most affectionate and sincere thanks of yr. S[ister] W[ebb] for the flour. She is quite anxious that she said so little to you about it.

So soon as you get the Money of Osborn remember the Ale and Corks which we extremely want, but not to your damage. It would go far in suppers. I have collected some good wine, spirits and Brandy. When do you think of going to Boston. It's most Heavenly sleighing with us.

I have the rest of Stern's works done up for you, but you must remember the needful. I am, Dear Br., Yrs Sincerely,

J. WEBB.

WETHD., Jany. 11th, 1789.

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FROM ABIGAIL WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

Your favour of the 16th I this day received by the hand of my Dear Miss Smith. I was extremely glad to see her, and promise myself great pleasure from her visit, which I shall make as agreeable to her as I posibly can. I thank you for the short but friendly letter, and will attend to the contents. Mr. Webb left me this day to go to New Haven. Shall send on your letter by the stage to morrow. All my Brothers belonging to Wethersfield are with him, so that we lead a still life at present, which I am not accustomed to nor fond of. Why dont we hear from Major Webb? I am impatient, and not a little anxious. I need not remind you what pleasure you will give us by transmitting the earliest information you get of him. I shall soon write to him and send to you to forward. He complain'd of all

his friends when he was last absent, that we neglected him. The flour proved excellent. Accept my gratefull thanks. I bless you every time I tast of it, and think of you with affection much oftener. Tell Miss D[uyckinck] I long to see her. My Love to her and to Miss Dunscomb. Is she restored to health again? Do you see anything of Miss Moore? I can write no more, only to repeat how sincerely and affectionately I am your friend and Sister,

A. WEBB.

Sally sits by me begs her Love may be sent you.

WETHERSFIELD Jany. 21st, 1789.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Jany. 26th, 1789.

Dear Brother:

I wrote you from New Haven last week; then I had not Recd. your last. This acknowledges the letter; but I have not time to answer it now, only to tell you those you call my Connecticut friends and say what you have hinted are by no means friends. I realy believe I shall accomplish what I have engaged with ease.

Perhaps they only mean the extremely difficult time of collecting cash. Belinda is well. Smith is now at Boston. He drove on. I was at New Haven. I have much to say, but cannot now. Remain easy that nothing in my power shall be wanting to do the needful. (I further add I am not well pleas'd with Humphrey's letter; but this and all other things must remain for the present.) Believe me, Dear Brother, Yr. Most afft. Friend,

J. WEBB.



FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

Dear Sir:

I will thank you to put the letter for Mrs. Greene on Board the first vessel for Georgia; or if none going soon, to get Mr. Griffin or some other of my friends to Frank it, and put in the Post Office.

I intended to have come over in the sleigh this evening, but my cold makes me almost sick. Harriet is quite unwell. I wish you a good journey and am, Dr. Sir, Yours,  
J. WADSWORTH.

Sunday Evg. [HARTFORD, February 8, 1789.]

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHD. Feby. 19th, 1789.

Dear Brother:

Your's of the 16th inst. lies before me. I am sorry Bell's letters are not arrived. She is anxious, as she fears her Mother and Family will be on her Acct. I wish you would call on Doct. *Jones* for me and get a Copy of Livingston's Demand. Bailey's I have not yet got. Where is Brother Jack's Evidences from Georgia about Simpson? Unless I hear from Him and you, it will not be prudent for me to try the affair. Pray did I thro mistake leave any of my Papers at your House? I cant find any of Oliver Elsworth's Papers. Do the needful about Sam May, as I am about settling with him. So with Jos. Stillman. As to Mr. McEvers, he must allow you the Rect., for his father was ill a long time with the Consumption during that time Charles did his business. Stephen Chester has moved into his House and I believe does to satisfaction in his office. I hope Burr will push the collecting for me. I

observe what you say about Col. Chester. He's now at Norwich with his wife. Neither He or Root will come on. They say Sturgis and Wadsworth belong to the old and to the new, and can go with credit and not be disgraced. I have pusht the affair, and so have others. Chester behaved well (but I find many of Chester's friends say it's too late; it looks as if he only ment to show himself.) About the necessary preparation of the old from P——, I am anxious to have enough by me and in due season. Have you got your Dictionary? What may I depend on if you get it? Do it soon. Aid and assist me for a little while, and I trust all will be well. Jo Bull came in and Testified about Beekman as you did, and so did others. The Court behaved well; in particular T—— S——.<sup>1</sup> He was a mind to take off half. He said He knew how people had suffer'd. Adieu. Adieu. Yours sincerely,

JOS. WEBB.

Mrs. W[ebb], Bel and Lydia, all desire to be remem'd. They are drinkg. Porter.

I thank you for the papers, but have no time to read. Bel is reading off them as tho they were a new novel.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Broadway, No. 25. New York.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

9th March, 1789.

I have to tell you Simpson's affair is continued untill September. I fear I have lost a good oppty., as Simpson cou'd not have been prepar'd; but as you and Brother

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Seymour?

Jack was both absent, I consented to have it put off. But September will soon be here, and I must then be fully ready to fight the battle. Capt. Curtiss got home Saturday evening, left the Sloop at Sachem's head in port of *Gilford*. So soon as the river opens he will sail for the West Indies. I hope you have put the Ale on board of him. Curtiss tells me you was busy electioneering, but can tell me no news. Colo. Chester is just gone from here. He was disappointed that Curtiss brot. no news who is President, and who is vice president. What is all your bustle about? Pray write by the first Boat bound to Georgia some good advice to Brother Jack. Let him be cool and slow to anger. He's highly vexed with Mrs. G[reene], D[enny], Wads[worth and] Mill[er]. He writes me with warmth agst. them. The Gent. waitg.

I will do all in my power to make the payment. Stand by yr. affectionate

WEBB.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York.

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TO DON DIEGO DE GARDOQUI.<sup>1</sup>

General Webb presents his most respectful compliments to Don Diego de Guardoqui, informs him he has call'd three times this afternoon and evening in hopes of seeing him. Mr. Guardoqui being from home, General Webb begs leave to inform him that he has it in charge from a Committee of Congress to notify him that the Ceremonial of the formal reception of the President of the United States will take place tomorrow at 12 o'clock, that a seat

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<sup>1</sup> Diplomatic representative of Spain in the United States.

is provided for his accommodation, and to signify to him that no precedence of seats is intended, and that no salutation is expected from him on his entrance into or departure from the Senate Chamber. The proceedings of the Committees of both Houses of Congress are enclosed.

General Webb begs leave to inform Mr. Guardoqui the business was not completed untill past 3 o'clock this day, which is the cause of his not receiving earlier notice.

Wednesday Even'g. 10 o'clock 29th April, 1789.

Endorsement: Copy of a note to Don Diego D. Guardoqui respecting the Inauguration of the President Geo. Washington. New York, 29th April, 1789.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

Why do you neglect writing me? Was you here you would pity and love me. Forsake me not because matters do not go right with me. Formerly you used to be very attentive and acquainted me of the occurrences that passed within your knowledge to amuse, divert and please me. Now, when you can render me essential service, you wholly neglect me. Have you the feelings for me that I have always had for you? Consider and love me still. Let me hear what is passing in the busy world. When may I expect Barrell here? I wish you every blessing and am most sincerely Yr Afft Br.,

JOS. WEBB.

WETHD. May 31st, 1789.

Monsr. St John pass'd in the stage. I was out by Chester's house and saw him yesterday. Must I notice him?



Sally Barrell, Mrs. W[ebb] and the circle desired to be remembered to you. Bill is at Colo. Wadsworth's. Was Smith pleased with his visit at Weathersfield? Say how de to Mr. Bogart and family [and] Mrs. Lott and family. Sister Chester expects to go in a few days with her daughter and Miss Bull for Bethlem.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Broadway No. 25, New York City.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

WETHERSFIELD, [June, 1789.]

I did not intend to have troubled you or any of my friends, let my troubles be what they woud; yet when I have got into troubles so unexpectedly, so ungenerously, and upon reflection find the consequences so serious, I can't help but paint them in part to you. As for myself I care but little; yet [for] my dear Partner and a dear little flock of seven children, my heart is grieved beyond painting or possibility of description. J. Barrell was so hurt and so affected that he left us this mornng at 5 o'clock. He thinks that as Alsop had attached and both Alsop and Seymour gave out they was determined to try the event of their attachment on real property, that taking my person was ungenerous. Give me leave to say you cant think what I undergo. All is hid from my good Mrs. W[ebb]. Tho she has yet bore all with fortitude and seeming cheerfulness, yet I dread to tell her that a few days part us. I can't muster resolution enough to tell her. Barrell will not permit it. He's confident Alsop is too good a man; but yet when he reflects upon King, it distresses him for me. For myself I expect to go. It will derange all preparations



of every kind. He will defeat himself and all the rest, for my going to jail shuts up my books, brings my person to exposure of every debtor that never thot. of attachment before, but will now, for fear Alsop should get some advantage. I was doing better for my creditors than my friend could think of. The scarcity of grain in the country has broke every link in the change, and the country people can not pay untill fall. This I was arranging nobly and should have fullfill'd my engagements.

But this conduct will ruin everything; for at best it will give every puppy leave to attach, altho he engaged other ways when he finds others is, cost and vexation, delay and disappointments. Perhaps he will take the half of the distillery appraised or rather agreed for if clear. What can he expect by my going to jail? He thinks how as we encouraged him at first of full pay. Let him reflect that I was to give and secure annual payments for the half of Mrs. A[lsop's] distillery 40£ L. My. a year. Mrs. S. and Mrs. A[lsop] prevented after solemn agremt. Said 40 was nothing to the value. If that was true, what must half the work, our property, be worth? More than enough to pay Mr. A[lsop]. Perhaps he will take them. Any how does he wish but neighbors fair? We have never deceiv'd him. The alteration of the times is all. But if I was to see him I doubt not I can convince him of his duty. He will by puting me to jail defeat himself and all my prospects. Monday next I go. Now I have to say tho Mrs. W[ebb] has behaved so well, she will not be able to part with me to jail. It will I find be too much for her feeble frame. I dare not tell her yet, as I expect no mercy from K[ing]. I ought. Perhaps Jo. Bull can convince him. He ruins his own design. (Suspense is the Devil.) Write me in due

season. I cant look over this letter, corect it yourself. Adieu, adieu. Let all be a secret in York. If settled as my debtors woud like to know I settled low in order to thro me out of Interest. Indeed, Br. Sam, was I to give all up, it would disappoint creditors, debtors, and every one. My plan was best for both. This I coud have accomplished and done well. At least if nothing can be done, delay my imprisonment untill I meet him or some way. Trouble not yourself too much, I will be resign'd to the worst of fate. If I go to jail come not to see me. I wish to be forgot. C[hester] family and ours is well. Adieu. Adieu.

Br. Jack has recd. yr letter by Pease. My *Dear, Dear* Mrs. W[ebb], her delicacy of going to the prison to see me. Its *Hellish*. Keep all sacred if I do not go to jail, but I expect to go. Yet while there's Life there is some hopes. He can at least be polite enough to put it off for me to come to New York. Perhaps I coud make some agreement with him that woud be advantageous to both. If I go he puts me in power of others, that may as I have repeatedly said to himself and me. Beekman Son and Goold has the same Seymour [*torn*]. So much depends on A[lsop] himself — but I have said enough.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 6th June, 1789.

My Dear Brother:

This will be handed you by Mr. Thos. Chester<sup>1</sup> who comes to see New York. Any civilities shewn him will be

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<sup>1</sup> The first post-office at Wethersfield was established in April, 1794, with Thomas Chester as postmaster.

done to a worthy good man. He will let you know the foolish and horrid situation I am in — on the 17th inst. destin'd for jail, unless orders from our late worthy friend Alsop prevents. I had so settled my country debts that I suppose I was at liberty to go out freely when I pleas'd, as nothing could be against me but Beekman Son & Goold and Jno. Alsop. And as they had attached property, I did not know that when they got out execution they would let go their estate and levy on my person. But yesterday I road to Hartford with Mr. Barrell, and after being at Bull's a short time the officer took me one side with much civility and delicacy, and told me had positive orders to levy Miller alias *Jno. Alsop's* execution on my body. I can't paint to you my distress. Read my letter to Alsop, seal it, and Chester will deliver it. I wish if possible to have the affair accommodated without noise or trouble. Indeed I wish it may be a secret if possible, that is if its settled, as it will disgrace me much amongst my debtors. For I was arranging matters by giving them liberty to wait untill their crops came off the ground to make remittances this fall, and so from time to time I expected them to forward payment to my mind, and had prepared matters much more to my mind than I was affraid off. This blow will make my Book Debtors hang back and not give Notes, for fear of their being sold. In short, unless Alsop will release me from the jail, I must go, and there I wish not to see my friends or foes untill I may so arrange matters as to leave this part of the country for some retir'd place of rest. *But my Family*, there is the difficulty. What is done for me must be done so that I may give an answer next Saturday evening, for next Monday I am to deliver myself to the officer. I am sorry to give so many of my

friends trouble and anxiety. I feel it most sensibly. I wish I may be able to return their gratitude some way most amply and full. I am, Dear Saml., Yours sincerely,

J. WEBB.

There is none in town know of my situation except Jack, Mr. Barrell and the Chesters. Our families are quite ignorant. It's a serious matter. The horrid *close* walls already begin to appear to me, but I can cheerfully resign to fate, and to be lost to the world if my family cou'd be happy.

I am obliged to appear cheerfull under the greatest cloud. But I will be the *Philosopher*.

My Brother Jack's attention and feeling for [me] unmans me. I dread the telling of it to Mrs. W[ebb]. I hope to God Mr. Alsop will see his own interest, but really I do not expect it, as King is there. I must prepare for the worst. Shou'd anything be done *favorably*, let it all be *Sub Rosa* to the rest of the world. Be cool and calm (let it not ruffle you shou'd nothing be done.) Perhaps all may be for the best; but it appears to me almost ruinous, for it's but a short time and all book debts will be outlaw'd and much and *most all* lies in that situation. I am almost distracted when I think seriously what a hellish condition this rideing out to Drink Tea at Wadsworth's has brot me to. But why do I trouble you? I will submit to the worst that can come. Yet its my duty to prevent going to one of our Horrid Castles. Was it like N. Y., and the same liberality shewn, it wou'd be something; but ours is as bad as imagination can paint it. Adieu. Adieu. Yrs Sincerely,

J. WEBB.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Broadway No. 25, New York. Per Thomas Chester, Esq.



FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Sunday, 7th June, 1789.

My Dear Brother:

We arriv'd here on Thursday after an agreeable journey. The first day we dined with Aunt Polly, who gave us an agreeable reception and a very pretty dinner. This place is very disagreeable, particular[ly] at this period, as you will find by my brother's letter. What will be the event God only knows. I think should he be oblig'd to leave his family, it will ruin him and injure his creditors; for two years from this all Book debts are outlaw'd, and should he only be confin'd for one day, it will prevent his settling any of his accounts. In short tho' its extremely disagreeable to you to interfear, yet I think his and family's situation demand our immediate attention. I shall write you in a few days again. I must request you to send me my saddle by young Mr. Barrell, and pay for the horse hire on Long Island. You will find my coat at Mr. Atkinson's. I will take it as a particular favor if you will send to the packet that arriv'd from Georgia for letters. I expect some mony also. Since I left you I think I was told that Major Berrian owes a considerable sum of mony to Turner.<sup>1</sup> Perhaps should you see him you may save some mony, but you must not take his note. A note or bonds are not worth much to the southard. This will be handed you by Thomas Chester, Esqr. who accompanys his sister and niece. Write me by every opportunity; it will in some degree palliate for the disagreeables of this place. Remember me to all friends and believe me to be with sincere Esteem your Friend and Brother,

JOHN.

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<sup>1</sup> Major George Turner.



FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Sunday Evening, 14th June, 1789.

My Dear Brother:

This acknowledges your long affectionate letter of the 11th Instant. I am and I am not disappointed. Some wrong head had injur'd me with Mr. Alsop. I feel for my creditors and my family; for myself was I alone I would not value it. Mr. Alsop and Mr. K[ing] will reflect when its too late that they have been misinform'd of cause and taken ill advice. Make yourself easy — a Jail is not so frightful (by [but] my dear Mrs. W.) I have unfolded the whole to her; she is wretched enough; altho she has born every thing else, this last will be too heavy for her delicate frame. Good God, who cou'd have thought this would have ever happen to one of our family. Brother Jack Webb and Chester both behave to a charm. Mr. Deming has my most sincere thanks for his feelings and polite behavior. My creditors must thank Mr. A[lsop] or rather Mr. K[ing] for all their disappointments. Its impossible so good a man as Mr. A[lsop] always has been shoud behave so unguarded to his own interest and the interest of his particular friends. I am prepared for the worst that can happen. Adieu. Adieu. I am sincerely Yrs.,

J. WEBB.

I think it best to keep all secret untill I am really gone to Jail. Then all will be ruin. The law of limitation on book debts, Notes, Officers, Dead persons accts, delays and cost, woud ruin the King's revenue. (I shall wish for to be thought no more of). What a friendship I have had

for Mr. A[lsop]. How I felt for his daughter when a prisoner at Millford, but I have done.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, No. 25 Broadway New York.  
Per Stage.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Tuesday Evening, 11 o'clock.  
June 16th, 1789.

My Dear Brother:

I am this moment returned from Hartford. I road over this evening with Colo. Chester to see Seymour, and see what could be done. Alsop's letter determined and positive against doing anything, but full and ample security. We found Mr. Seymour abed being unwell; but he has agreed to come over and dine with us tomorrow. I think between you and me there will a *suspension* of fourteen or fifteen days. I am chagrined and mortified that I should give so many of my friends trouble, anxiety, and uneasiness, on my acct. Poor Mrs. W[ebb]! When I paint to you her feelings when I first told her of the affair it will distress you. Such a sigh, such a groan! Oh! Mr. W. it must not be. She had rather take me and her children by the hand and go out of doors and leave all and seek our fortunes. Leave the rest untill we meet, for its too new to repeat at present. Dear amiable partner, too sensibly does she feel for me; all her anxiety is on my acct. For myself I woud not care a rush; its for her, her dear children (which I believe are pleasing even to all their acquaintance). My Dear Brother and Sisters! Reflection that they feel so much touches me

beyond description. Colo. Chester thinks A[lsop] has behaved out of character. He told Mitch[ell], told me, and has told a number, he did not wish or would take my person. Barrell is surpris'd; first blame[d] me for exposing myself; on hearing of the facts, did not censure me. Keep all your distress within due bounds of the circle of creditors. Its all a secret here, and I believe will remain so, if I adjust and settle as I yet expect. Will my coming to York for a day or two be of any service to make A[lsop] hear to reason, and to convince him of his own good? After all *Goal* is prefferable to let them injure my other generous creditors or my family. K[ing] and A[lsop] mistake if they think to frighten me so as to lower my respect for myself or family. I will do honorably and do justly. Pray write me fully by the return of the post freely. My head and heart ache. I believe you'll think this letter proves it. All are gone to bed. I am really fatigued, stupid and dull after my ride to Hartford. Jack is gone to bed, Jo is, Barrell, and indeed all the family. Advise me freely and fully. Richd. Bacon leaves this place early in the morn'g. by water for York. He knows nothing of my affairs, nor is it best any should but what does. What says Belinda Smith? Tell Sister Betsy her family at home is well. The town is much as she left it. No death losses or crosses in her family since she left the town. Connecticut is more distressed for bread corn than I ever knew, on acct. of shipg. too much abroad and the crops of last year being cut off. Let me know your price current. Make yourself as happy as possible. Should the worst come to the worst I will endeavour right *shall* rule my actions, and I will be resigned. My eyes are almost clos'd. Adieu. Yrs Sincerely,

W.

Yours of the 14th I have just found was recd. by Mrs. W[ebb]. Accept my thanks. She is asleep, or would desire to be remembd.

In Hartford & Wethersfield: Wheat 8/ Rye 5/3. 5/6  
Indian Corn 4/ @ 4/4 Buckwheat 2/10 Oats 1/10  
Potatoes 2/6 3/6 Flour seven dollars per barl.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, June 18th, 1789.  
Thursday Evening.

Dear Brother:

Yours of the 14th instant I have received, but am disappointed at not receiving one by this Eveng. stage. The Driver tells me he enquired particularly at the Mid[dle-town] mail. However as I know you must be anxious I write you in full hopes this will arrive safe and releave your great anxiety for yet a little while. According to your advice Brother Jack at different times acquainted my dear, dear, amiable Mrs. W[ebb] with the whole affair, and I shew her the letters. The prospect [is] as gloomy as it was; guess everything, it cant be painted. Her distress was beyond everything. As to property, of no value in her mind; but the good Colo. Chester has so managed the affair and given bonds, that the officer has liberated me from Jail untill the 17th of July, in full hopes the obstinate creditor will hear to reason, and some settlement take place. Now the delicacy is so great that I feel under every obligation to Chester. I ought to go to New York, or send some trusty person that will attend [to] the business. I cant but think I can convince my friends and creditors that I am doing all in my power for their interest. Yet reflect,



if any other creditor should stop me either in New York, or indeed any other county besides Hartford, it would give Alsop an advantage.

Therefore if I come I must go and come in safety, or all is ruined. This I think can be done. Write me fully that I may know how to conduct. There is time enough yet, tho something ought to be done immediately, as it is not good to put off to the last. Amidst all my troubles how fortunate I ought to think myself that Brother Jack is here. He hardly lets me breath for myself, he's so attentive to my distresses. Mrs. W[ebb], thank Heaven, is better since the liberation. It wore her out with the young dear lambs being almost all down with the *meazles*. It's a secret here only known to three or four. I wish this may be the case with you. Heaven grant I may fall on some happy commodation. A[lsop] must come in, for I will stand by the other creditors that have behaved so well, and as gloomy and horrid as the thought is, Jail is preferable to be thot doing wrong. I little thot I should ever feel the heavy hand I now feel from a Yorker. Bacon knows nothing of this or is worth while. He has a common chair for Mrs. Bogart which I promised to send her. I could not get it painted to my mind. Please to have [it] first finely painted green, and presented to her in my name. They are all well at Colo. Chester's. I am, Dear Brother, with the most feeling gratitude for your attention to my affairs, Yours sincerely,

W.

You'll observe this letter is for your advice about my comeing or sending. Brother Jack says he should have written you, but he feels embarrassed on my acct., and as



I write it will answer. His and my state of suspense is disagreeable. Write me fully as possible. Brother Jack stays by me untill something more is determined. He expects his vessel in about ten days. Nat. Barrell is yet with us.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Broadway No 25, New York.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, June 21, 1789.  
Sunday Evening.

My Dear Brother:

Yours of the 18th lies before me. I am pleas'd with Mr. Denning's attention, but cannot acct. for Mr. A[lsop's] conduct. Why is he so obstinate to the unfortunate?

I am amazingly disappointed, chagrin'd and hurt. I had conceived the highest opinion of his feeling, humane, benevolent heart. No, his letter to Seymour I do not believe is different from his conversation to you; it stops all settlements. My situation is disagreeable enough; it's a continual state of suspense. Seymour, [or] rather Dodd the officer, has further allow'd me, as I wrote you last, untill the 17th of July to endeavor a settlement. Now I wait for your advice, whether to come on myself, or send a hand to endeavour to soften the heart of Alsop. Indeed I have, between ourselves, thot of Joseph Bull's going on for me. He has much the confidence of the Yorkers, has negotiated well for himself and several friends. He's perfectly my friend, between you and me. I suppose I could do best myself, but is there not some danger of my coming? Being taken out of the County of Hartford, so as to prevent my being here on the 17th July, would

make my friend Colo. Chester liable, which I would not do for the world.

I am embarrassed. I could bear all the cursed misfortunes of life want [were not] it for my Dear Mrs. W[ebb] and children, and I might add, my *brothers* and *sisters*. For myself I could be resigned to *fate*. All remains here a secret, and will unless some one writes it from New York. There was no letter from you post before last. Do not fail me untill something is done. Colo. Chester is much obliged to you for mentioning his wife; it's all the source he hears from her. He wishes much for her, feels like a widower. I am, dear Brother, Yr sincere and affectionate Brother,

Jos. WEBB.

Brother Jack stays by me and ready to do all in his power. He supposes its not necessary for him to write per every opportunity.

Tell our friend Denning, as disagreeable as a jail is, I hardly believe I shall do anything that he and my other creditors does not approve.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 26th Friday, June 1789.

My Dear Brother:

I have sat down several times to write, but when I wrote my spirits were such that on a second reading I destroyed them. Leaving this tomorrow for Coalchester to continue there till Monday, I thought it my duty as well as inclination to inform you that I have advised our brother to employ Jos. Bull to try to negotiate his matter with Alsop.

For its my candid opinion that should he be obliged to go to [New York], it will boath ruin him and prevent his ever paying his creditors; for no one will settle with him when he is there. Since my return he has been constantly closing the accts., and arranging his matters so as to close them, which I have not a doubt he would, if they would let him be unmolested. Why would any person try to injure him and family when he is doing every thing to benefit those he owes? I wish to God Alsop may see his own interest. Should he study that he would not drive the man who has served him to ruin. He is by no means necessitated; was he, that might be some excuse. I am sure you will do every thing in your power. I wish you would write me fully what you think on this plan. I have received letters today from my vessell in the Cape. She has come to very bad markets. I expect her next week, after which I shall be at leisure, when I shall be able to follow any plan you have. I expect it [will] be fourteen or fifteen days before I can leave this. Let me request you to speak to our friend Major Berrian respecting a small order he accepted from Thomas Collier, Esq., for twenty pounds sterling. I also expect in the first vessell from Georgia a few Hhd. tobacco. Should it arrive be good enough to order it sold and send the money to me.

Mrs. Chester has returned and speaks very much of your attention to her. She is much pleased with her jaunt. I have a vast deal to say to you, but that must be referred till I have the pleasure of seeing you. Nothing but necessity would send me to Coalchester. Please to remember me to all friends, and believe me to be your Affectionate Brother,

JOHN.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York.

FROM ELIHU CHAUNCEY GOODRICH.

Dear Sir:

Yours with its enclosure to Doctr. W. V. W.<sup>1</sup> came safe and was safely handed with the small bundle.

This encloses one to you directed. All friends as usual. Respecting Nankeens I shall give you information by our friend Jacob R. Van Rensselaer, who will be with you next week. Come and see your friends and yours, etc.,

ELIHU CHAUNCEY GOODRICH.

CLAVERACK, 26th June, 1789.

Addressed: Gen'l Samuel B. Webb, Broadway, New York. Free. Elihu Chauncey Goodrich.

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JOSEPH WEBB TO JAMES SEAGROVE.

Dear Seagrove:

I am again in New York on the old business, settling with d—m—d hard obstinate creditors—the worst of all business under Heaven. Little thought I that we should either of us be so harrassed. God knows I do not think either of us deserve it, but fate has ordered it and we must submit.

As to the House of McEvers & Co, it's in a singular situation. No one to receive or give orders, yet many different agents, committees, and the Devil knows not what, all ready and willing to receive, but as I said before, paddy like none loves to receive, nor is it yet determined by law who shall receive. I am vexed with my cruel situation. The War has fell most cruelly on those who had outstanding debts. There is no such thing as collection; it's almost

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<sup>1</sup> W. Vrooman Wimple.



out of the question. I have been round the town, and the whole face of this city seems changed; most of our old friends and acquaintances departed, new faces, such as Londoners, Irishmen and Scotchmen. However I hope it possible to close with my creditors at this time some how or somehow. I wish sometimes I had left my country. This would be hard after the amazeing run of business I have had and done, the agreeable connections I have formed, the beautiful little town I am settled down in. There I can be one of the first. If I go away God knows what may happen; besides my Dear Amiable Mrs. Webb and seven children. At Wethersfield our schools are now perhaps equal to any upon the continent for Masters or Misses, as Mrs. Green can tell you; and they are much improved since she left us. Between us you Southern gentlemen would all do much better to send to Wethersfield for their children's education than anywhere else that I know of. My little Sally makes me think I am [an] old fellow.

By the way, pray, my dear Seagrove, let me ask you for a long circumstantial letter about the fray of Miller and *Jack*. Jack is at times imprudent, but after all no one possesses a better heart. He is extremely hurt you should be out with him; its a misunderstanding some way I wish explained. I declare solemnly before he left me I never with all his imprudences heard him speak a hard word either of you or Mrs. S[eagrove], but always the reverse way. I may go farther and say all his letters from Georgia spoke highly in favor of Mrs. Seagrove, saying she was like his sister Webb, who he adores. Now all these put together make me confident there is some wretched misinformation and misunderstanding which may easily through your goodness of heart and benevolence all be put to rights.



I received your letter and have done the needful as to saying all in my power not only to our Repre[sentative], but to others. So has Sam B. and several other of your friends. Henry Livingston has this moment come in to see me and asked who I was writing to. I told him you. He begged me to say God bless you, and tell you he was doing the needful and would push it. Sam Webb says there is no less than twenty applying for the very post on the list to the President. Write me every oppty., and should it be convenient some of your flower seeds, shrubs, or something in this way, would not come amiss in the pleasant garden of your Friend Webb. I have also to make another request, viz that you would collect me some respectable evidences that Jona. Simpson was in Georgia with the enemies. That he took an active part and followed the British Army. The evidence must be sworn to before a magistrate, and sealed up directed to the Superior Court in Hartford in Connecticut.

I am, Dear Jemmy, wishing you every happiness Your affectionate friend,

JOS. WEBB.

NEW YORK, July 8th, 1789  
at Mrs. Frances Inn.

Should the Dear Mrs. G[reene] not be from Georgia, say how de to her, that all her Weth[ersfiel]d friends are well. Lathrop yet keeps the Misses' school. Mrs. W[ebb] wrote her a few days before I left home. Miss Betsy Chester [and] Miss Bull are at Bethlem, left there a few days since by Mrs. Jack Chester and Thos. If you have any commands this way I shall be happy to serve you.

Addressed: James Seagrove, Esq., Savannah, Georgia.

FROM KILLIAN K. VAN RENSSELAER

My D. Friend:

The stage driver informed me that he had put a letter in the post office for me from you. This information I did not receive till this afternoon. I called at the office this evening and the Post Master was absent. I know not the contents of your letter, but I will attend to it in the morning. Goodrich has not received his examination, and I am fearful it will not take place till the last of the week. My business I will accomplish tomorrow, but I shall be in duty bound to attend to Goodrich, and wait until he gets his examination.

Pray dont leave Claverack till after my return, which will be on Thursday or Friday. I hope you have taken possession of one of my rooms or all. My love to the dear girls. Yours in great haste,

K. K. V. R.

July 29th, 1789.

LEWIS'S TAVERN. Wednesday Evg 9 o'clock.

Addressed: General Samuel Webb, Claverack.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.WETHERSFIELD, 3rd August, 1789.  
Sunday Evening.

My Dear Brother:

I have this moment returned from Litchfield, where I have had a most delightful ride. I spent this afternoon with Trumbull. He thinks it will be well for you to be here at my trial with Simpson. He thinks he can keep it off a few days for your arrival.

Brother Jack is at Salisbury. I was in some hopes to have met him, but my deranged affairs would not suffer. I expect him home tomorrow. Mrs. Green is not arrived. Remember any evidence you get of Simpson's being within the lines at London, Halifax, Quebec, New York or Georgia, will be all of service. Remember the other necessary that we have chatted about. Tell my friends Strong, Denny, Vanhorn, I shall make no other offer to Alsop. I shall guard the property in my hands for our mutual benefit, and will do the honorable part as far as my abilities will allow. I am most sincerely yours,

J. W.

Bacon will call and pay Browers.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Tuesday Evening, [August 11(?), 1789.]

My Dear Brother:

I have nothing new to write you yet as my affairs are situated. I suppose it will please you to find me with my family, and that we make ourselves as happy as we can. Tomorrow or next day I go for Litchfield; but I go in one day and return the next, ready to receive your letters. As to Alsop make yourself easy. I trust all will be well, tho I rather expect to go to prison, but tell my creditors I have made up my mind. I shall make no further offers. I hope you will not forget me about the *Congress M*——. Yet you must get it for a short time so as to answer a short purpose. Our Court sits the first Tuesday of September next. I shall be glad to have you here without fail at the trial. It will be necessary for me to prove he was within the British

lines. This evidence you will please bring. I suppose I can put off the trial for a day or two for you, if necessary. But I should be sorry to be without you at the trial. Its a matter of so much consequence, the Court will indulge me with several days. Pray is Congress agoing to do anything for you? Hum[phre]ys is provided for. When does he leave New York? <sup>1</sup> I must write him on business, but time will not permit. Jack Webb, Chester, and Riley, find plenty of game; therefore bring your gun powder and shott. We will endeavor to make it as agreeable as possible. Do not forget your Acct. with E. Bulkley. His widow is disposed to behave ill to us I mistrust. Did I tell you that Jack Webb had a very bad kick from his horse sometime since, which prevented his journey; but is now so he rides out and goes a gunning. What shall be done with Jack Webb and Mrs. G[reene] when they meet? I am,  
Dear Brother, Yrs. Sincerely,

J. WEBB.

Brother Jack Chester behaves to a charm and indeed his family. Mrs. W[ebb] and Sally beg to be remembered to you. Old Mr. Hugh's <sup>2</sup> evidence of his buying goods of me for the Army and paying Continental money only, will be of service; if convenient to get. So will Wadsworth.

The Money for my Taylor will be paid before you leave it. I have skipt something will be in York in a few days. I feel the hint.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Broadway, No. 25. New York.

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<sup>1</sup> As United States minister to Portugal.

<sup>2</sup> Hugh Hughes?



FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, August 18th, 1789.  
Tuesday Evening.

My Dear Brother:

Yours of the 16th gave me pleasure to find you back in New York. On Sunday last I waited on Seymour, told him I was ready to go to jail on Monday according to his request. I asked him for his orders from Alsop. He showed me a letter dated the 2nd instant, wrote by Alsop himself, in which he writes nearly the following words.

Dr. Sir. I wrote, you some time since by Jos. Webb, who requested a few weeks to negotiate and make some offers. I wrote you, if it was not inconsistent with my hold to grant him a reasonable time. Three weeks has elapsed, and I have not heard a word from him. I now wish the officer may be crowded to his duty; if security or payment is not made, confine him in goal immediately. Yr. H. Servt.,

JNO. ALSOP.

John does not know me. He and Rufus may find themselves mistaken when its too late. I shall make no offers, hard as the fate is. I know its necessary to go; but its ruinous both to creditors and my family. I confess I cant see what they would be at; but you may tell my other creditors I feel all they could wish me to do. I am preparing, and in short am ready at an hour's warning.

Poor Mrs W[ebb] has born all with most astonishing fortitude and cleverness; but this comes with a heavyness I fear will be too much for her. I suppose I shall go on Fryday. I am quite resigned, and had rather move into Gaol, and be within the yard with my family, than make *Jno. Alsop* any other offer. He's an [un]feeling Dutchman that is quarreling with his own interest. I find Seymour feels for me, is surprised Alsop does not accept, cant



but think he still will. For my part I have no *Idea* Jno. or Rufus will give any other orders than to collect the whole, or put me to Gaol. They prefer loosing the Debt. Why [do] I say Jno. and Rufus? This is their *langue* when they talk of Jos. W. No, Brother Sam, I will not knowingly injure my other creditors by gratifying their unfeeling unmercantile conduct. Write me by the return of this post. I think its likely to be the last I can receive from you before I am destined to that horrid cell at Hartford. Make yourself easy on my Acct. I doubt not I shall find friends there. The first private opportunity I shall send Bowers his bill. Tell Denning, Strong, and the rest, I shall do what is right, and make no other offer to A[lsop].

Forget me not about the needful for the first Tuesday [in] September, about Jona. Simpson's affair. I wish for an evidence that saw Jona. Simpson within the British lines; for tho its believed, yet it must be known. Did you ever see him during your imprisonment? I believe I must have Atkinson's evidence. Is Effingham Lawrence gone to London? Brother Jack wishes for his saddle and bridle. I wish for mine from McEvers, for Sally to write on horseback. Where is Mrs. Greene?

To return to my business. Our friend Wadsworth has been friendly and clever. He has all the Dear Good wishes of the Chester and Webb family for his attention to me. You cant think what Jack Chester, Mrs. C[hester], the old lady, feel for me. Make your self easy about my fortitude. It will be all you can wish. I am ready for the worst. Poor Jack Webb is like a forlorn wanderer. He vexes, teases himself to death. Curses A[lsop] and K[ing] for the hardness of their hearts; loves me and the family dearly; but I wish to G—d he would make himself the happy, easy,

calm, quiet Philosopher. What do you mean about A[lsop] hearing the words of Mr. Jos. Bull? I know not what you mean. I wish you would let me know. I also wish you would enquire if I did not leave a shirt and some other clothes either at your house, Mrs. Frances' or at Philips'. Brother Jack would have met you, but just before his vessel sailed one of his horses kickt him bad; but he's now quite recovered and will write you soon. I am your much injured and distressed Brother,

J. W.

Past 11 o'clock; my eyes tho to appearance well, yet so weak as to prevent me from even reading or correcting this letter.

Tell Mr. Sherbrooke I would write him but my eyes prevent.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Broadway, No. 25, New York.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

I this moment set off for Litchfield and hope to be back tomorrow night. I find it will be necessary for you to be here on Tuesday next, as my cause is then fixt for trial. Perhaps Wadsworth's evidence will be necessary about buying goods for me.

I must prove he was within the British lines. This I cant prove here. Atkinson or some others may in York. Be here with all necessaries to help me. Forget not the Congress stuff.

Your affectionate Brother,

JOS. WEBB.

August 27th, 1789.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, September 3, 1789.

Dear Brother:

I wish for the evidence of Jonathan Simpson, Junior, being within the lines during the *Warr*. Altho every one supposes it, yet no one knows it or has seen him. It must be proof positive that some one saw him within the *lines*. I am sorry to write you so often on this subject, but next week the affair must be closed for or against me. I have had no letters from you this evening. If you could [call] some one from Georgia or South Carolina to evidence, it might be well, *or Quebec*.

Perhaps you might get a few thousands, one, *two*, or 5, of McCormic for a short time. Early dates would be best. Colo. Chester begs you to send on the said instruments. Pray what's become of Conklin with my cloths? Mr. Warren, the *Bermudian*, says you talk of coming to commencement. Is this the case? Write me fully. Yr Friend and Br.,

JOS. WEBB.

Pray send me on Stern's Works and Gordon's History. I send you Hilldness' Rect. for the 40/ L[awful] M[oney]. I paid for the books. I drank tea with the two Miss Johnsons, Dr. Warren and Ths. Chester this afternoon at Colo. Wadsworth. The frost has done no hurt hereabouts; the farmers may perhaps tell some cock and bull story. Take care and keep all my letters secret from every eye. Where is Mrs. Green's letter? Mrs Webb is anxious to see it. Mrs. Gr. is not yet arrived.

FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Sunday Evening, 6th September, [1789.]

Dear Brother:

I should have wrote you immediately on my return from Salisbury, but being in expectation of seeing you prevented. But this day our mutual friend Paris, Esqr., calling on us, I thought best once more to intrude one of my scralls upon you. The two Mr. Johnsons from Stratford, Mr. Verplanck and some other gentlemen dined and spent the day with us this day. I wish to God I could say that I enjoy'd company as I once did. But —.

I am anxious to see you on several accounts, and I will thank you to let me know when you think it probable we shall meet in this place. For on Tuesday or Wednesday my intention is to leave this for the farm at Coalchester, where I shall continue a few days. I am surprised that Mr. Houston does not forward my bridle and saddle. I am in great want of it. Should he not forward it soon I shall be oblig'd to purchase me boath. I wish you would bring some powder and shott with you; [of] coarse shott I have a quantity. I am with compliments to all friends your affectionate Brother,

JOHN.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.<sup>1</sup>

I wrote you the two last posts; therefore I have no answer. I have not much to say.

I am endeavoring to get along as well as I can. I make

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<sup>1</sup> On the same sheet.

myself tolerably easy, let the world use me as they will. I find it's the only way to get along. What availeth by fretting, teasing, scolding and all these cross matters. I live and enjoy myself with all the crosses, losses and ill fortune. I am not so anxious even with a wife and seven children as some others without any connections. Adieu. Adieu, says Yrs. Sincerely,

J. W.

Would it not be well for you to tell Vanhorn, Sherry, Denny and others, that I will so act that I cant but think they will love me.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, 25 Broadway, New York.  
Per Mr. Pariss.

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FROM JAMES DUYCKINCK.

P. LANDING, 7 September, 1789.

Sir:

The long neglect on your side for the settlement of the Accts. with the estate of Richard Bancker, deceased, has reduced me before now to the absolute determination of putting the accounts in the hands of an attorney; but the connections of family and friends to both of us have advised to indeavour to get it settled in a friendly way, as the law would be of means of creating animossety in the family, and in dead would seam to the world an acct of condemnation. But however these things are reduced with me to an absolute determination with me. You have heretofore sundry times promised an immediate settlement; only with exceptions of a week or two at one time, and on your hastely returning from Boston at an other



time. Near three years has since relapts, which is sufficient to convince me you dont mean to cloes these matters without thoes unfriendly measures which I have worne out my patience to avoid. My earnest request you will returne me your answer in what mode we are to effect this settlement. I imbrace the opportunity of sending this by Mr. John Duyckinck, and hope you will use the same conveyance to me at his return. Am Sir your Most Humble Servt.

JAMES DUYCKINCK.

Endorsed: Recd 10 Sept. James Duyckinck's Letter, Brunswick, 7th Sept. 1789; to which I returned a verbal answer by his brother John, that I ever had been ready to examine any accounts he should produce, but was not administrator to Mrs. Sarah Bancker, dec'd.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Sept. 10th, 1789.

Dear Br:

Our Court has this day broke up. Simpson's affair are put off untill March. I thot it my duty to let you know this, to make your arrangements about coming to Connecticut. I think my affairs in that department stand well. As to A[lsop], all remains uncertain. What ought I to do. Is it necessary for me to write to A[lsop], or to K[ing]? I never shall make him another offer. Mrs. Greene is now at table in fine spirits; so is Edwards, who is my staunch friend. I have wrote you several letters since I have had an answer. I am yours sincerely,

J. WEBB.

FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 17th September, 1789.

Dear Brother:

On my return last evening from the farm at Coalchester I saw your letter to my brother and self. I thank you for your attention to my affairs. I wish also you would send one my blankets and mattress with the saddle and bridle, as we are in want of blankets. Since writing the above Colo. Chester has returned from Hartford, where he went to leave our friend and brother in Goal, and this night a *horrid* and *disagreeable Prison* confines a man who has been to to *generous* to all *mankind*. I hope it will not be long before his situation is altered. Here I am with a family of eleven children, who look up to me to protect them, with a most heavenly woman at their head. Judge of our feelings, and you may in some degree see what pleasure I have taken since my return here. I am not in any situation to write this evening. I hope and expect that it will not be long before you come, for there are many and waity reasons why you should be here, not only on his account but on your own. Should it be in your power to send a few pounds of tea to our good sister I wish you would. Be so good as to pay attention to my letters that arrive from Georgia. Perhaps you had better write Seagrove; he may by that be induced to make some remittances. The family desire their love to you and Aunt Polly. Excuse this hasty scrall, and believe me to be with unalterable esteem and Your Brother,

JOHN W.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, New York. Per Stage.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

HARTFORD, 17th September, 1789.

My Dear Brother:

This acknowledges the receipt of yours directed to Br. Jack and me. I am now close confined in Gaol by Mr. Alsop. Make yourself easy. I am as happy as a poor unfortunate jailbird can be. I have mustered all the resolution I am master of, and my friends are surprised to see me behave so well. But it's a jail, and it's confinement. I am resolved to *what* I shall *not say anything about on paper*. All my anxiety is for your poor unfortunate sister and family. I however trust all is for the best. I think it will be well for you to acquaint Messrs. Sherbrooke, Vanhorn [and] Denning. A[lsop] has shot his foolish *bolt*. I wish not to say too much until some opportunity offers. I will let some one call on you and acquaint you with all. Bacon will call and pay Brower. If you can conveniently send some little ale to your sister it will please much. Flour is plenty with us. I shall say but little at present but I trust all is for the best. What's to be done I know not, but the upright honest merchant shall be my theme. I am, Dear Brother, Your most afft friend,

J. W.

HARTFORD GAOL, Thursday Evening.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 29th September, 1789.

My Dear Brother:

I am happy to have it in my power to tell you that our brother has kept up his spirits much better than I had any idea of. I have done everything to make him comfortable.

Also to render his family happy. In one of my last letters to you I requested you to send them a few pounds of tea and sugar. I wish you to by Capt. Richard Bacon; also to send all of my things that I left at your house, such as my pistols, gun, shott, mattrass, blankets and portmanteau, and shoe brushes. The blankets we are in great want of. Neither my sister nor brother wish you to sacrifice your prospects to them; they are comfortable at present, and I shall make it my study to render them every service in my power. I am obliged to go to Hartford almost every day, and am obliged to borrow a bridle and saddle. I wish you to send mine and the bitts that James McEvers has given you an order for, for our brother. I expected in every paper to see your name, and that you had obtained some office; but the favors of men in power a[re] very uncertain. I wish you to send six or eight pounds of the powder you sent a sammples off, also a few pounds of Bird shott. The taxes on your Glastonbury bond I have paid. Sister requests me to give her love to you and Aunt Polly; the children join, who often ask after you. I am convinced that it's for the best that our brother has taken the step he has. We are reconciled to it. Think it for the best; tho' you can have no idea how much we have felt on the occasion. But Mrs. W[ebb], with her usual propriety of conduct, has in this instance kept her spirits to a charm. Consider a man who through life who has lived in affluance, to be confined in a Durty Gaol. Put ourselves in a similar situation, then perhaps we may judge. He keeps his spirits up and our friends have been very attentive. He has constantly some one friend with him. Was the place in any respect equal to our worthy friend Lotts, I should not so much care; but the winter I fear, as the place must



be cold and disagreeable. He sincerely thanks Colo. Livingstone for his letter. Excuse this scrall, and rest assured that no one loves and esteems you more than your affectionate Brother,

JOHN.

P. S. I wish you to send me a dogg by Richard Bacon. Perhaps Coll. Smith will give you one of his Newfoundland pups.

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TO COLONEL FISHBURN.

NEW YORK, 29th September, 1789.

Dear Sir:

I have received yours of this morning's date, and have to observe I am totally ignorant of my brother's affairs in Georgia. If he owes money I presume it is owing to some disappointment of his friends there, as he usually has been strictly punctual. By Major Sumner there was a letter addressed to him, you say from Mr. Pinman. I have forwarded it to him, and two others in the same handwriting which were left at my house while I was in the northern country, and probably had been here from two to three months. I will write him on the subject tomorrow's post, and I know him so well that you may assure Mr. Pinman that if there is moneys due him, it has been owing to accident and not design that he has not been paid; for when my Brother left me in May last he was in expectations of considerable remittances from Georgia.

Had I the sum you want to spare without great inconvenience I should take a pleasure in obliging you; but at present tis not in my power. Your friends Genl. Matthews



and Jackson<sup>1</sup> have this day received upwards of 1,000 dollars. I dare say they can without inconvenience supply you. I am, dear sir, Your most Obed Servt,

SAML. B. WEBB.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

HARTFORD PRISON, Wensday Evening,  
October 7th, 1789.

Dear Brother:

Mr. Joseph Bull has just called upon me and says he's going to New York in the morning; and as it's a private opportunity, altho you have not wrote me since my imprisonment which was on the 17th of September, and further I wrote you yesterday by Charles Hopkins, yet I doubt not your friendship and tender feelings.

I am happy and supplied with all my wants except my liberty; for particulars I refer you to Hopkins and Bull. I shall do nothing in a hurry. I shall take my own time as to giving all up, as Colo. W[adsworth] and some friends wish. At present, between ourselves, I have far other views, and very honorable ones, as Jos. B[arrell] can tell you. He's my friend, so is Amos B[ull]. Colo. Chester behaves to a charm. Write Mrs. W[ebb] once and awhile; it will not be amiss. Where is my G——? why does she neglect writing? What says Sherbrook, Vanhorn, and the rest? I am in haste all you wish as to love and affection.

WEBB.

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<sup>1</sup> George Matthews and James Jackson, both members of Congress from Georgia.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

HARTFORD PRISON, 20th October, 1789.

My Dear Brother:

I have almost resolved to neglect writing you untill I have a letter from you. Can any one believe that my fond, tender, affectionate Brother should neglect writing me during a five weeks imprisonment? So it is; I declare I have not received one line from you. I have received a line from our friend Wm. Denning; it's a queer kind of a thing, but upon the whole its well meant, and I will answer it when I have leisure; but I am now cautious. I must write but little, and that with prudence and attention. I have now your sister Webb seting by, and I have to tell you I have fixt up two chambers that are pleasant and agreeably situated. Yet, my Brother, it's a prison, and a place I do not deserve. Jemmy McEvers is in town and has visited me every day. The President arrived in town last evening, and put up at Fred Bull, and goes out quite early in the morning. He was met at Wethersfield by the light horse from Hartford and a large concourse of people; in short he has been paid much attention for Connecticut people.<sup>1</sup>

Write me fully the news and what you think will cheer a prisoner. Have I told you in all my letters, or any one, that Colo. Chester from the first of my affair with Alsop he [has] behaved the brother and friend. He is a fine fellow. Joseph Barrell writes me that Silas D[eane] is expected every hour in Capt. Colahan. When is Duke

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<sup>1</sup> "At Weathersfield we were met by a party of the Hartford Light Horse, and a number of Gentlemen from the same place with Colo. Wadsworth at their head, and escorted to Bull's Tavern, where we lodged. "Washington's *Diary*."

Humphrey expected back? Where is Mrs. Greene? What shall I do with General Moylan?<sup>1</sup> What says K[ing], A[lsop], &c? However I ask these questions, and wish to be gratified. I know it's with difficulty you can answer them all. I am with every sentiment of esteem love and regard Your affectionate Brother,

JOS. WEBB.

Tuesday Evening.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Sunday, 25th October, 1789.

Dear Brother:

On my return from Coalchester I received your letter, and immediately sent it to our brother at Hartford. I am almost discouraged of ever seeing you here, but I hope that you will not put it off much longer. If you should, perhaps at a future period you might have reason to regret the neglect. I must confess that I am about discouraged, so much so that I am determined soon to change my present situation. You can have no idea how very disagreeable I am situated. In short it will not be in my power to afford the frequent supplies I have done. Will not A[lsop] offer some terms with the rest, for at present they are injuring themselves as well as him.

Sister W[ebb] thanks you very much for your friendly condolence, and should be very happy to see you. Request you to remember her to Aunt Polly, who she and

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen Moylan was an Irishman who settled in Philadelphia and joined the Continental army in the first year of the war. He served as aide de camp to Washington, and later commanded a regiment of cavalry. He became brevet Brigadier General, September 30, 1783.

the family do not forget. I thank you when you ship the things of mine, if you will send everything, the shoe brushes with the rest. Have you wrote or heard from Seagrove? Its very singular that I have never had a line from him. Have you heard of or seen Major John Burrows? He was my friend, and I left in his hands a protested Bill of £250. 0. 0 sterling. The family have been very unwell, as has my brother who has been confined to his bed. Should you see our worthy friend Mr. A. Lott and family, please to remember me to them. I thank you for the offer of the powder; it will come very acceptable. Should you no of any opportunity to Georgia be good enough to inform me. Excuse this hasty scroll, and believe me to be with sincere Esteem and affection your brother,

JNO. W.

Addressed: General Saml. B. Webb, New York. Honored by Mr. Denning.

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FROM HENRY IZARD.

Dear Sir:

It is with the highest degree of satisfaction that I have it in my power to inform you, that I shall not be under the necessity of making use of your obliging note. Mr. McComb has had a meeting with the managers and, after much discussion, they have agreed to let me have a ticket whenever I please. At the same time I take this opportunity of professing myself not less obliged to you on that account for your singular politeness. I am, Dear Sir, your Friend and very humble Servt.

H. IZARD.

Thursday, 29th October, 1789.



FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 6th December, 1789.

My Dear Brother:

I received your friendly letter of the 22nd November. The bridle and saddle with the blankets came safe to hand. I thank you for sending them; also in sending the things by Capt. Barnard, who has not as yet arrived. The *seen* with S[ilas] D[eane] is closed, and from the want of attention to our matters with him our attachments are losst. I have been with Mr. John Trumbull, our Council, who advises us to bring a Petition to the House of Assembly, praying that the lands absolutely received for my or our Father's debts may be given to us, and said he has not a doubt but the Petition will be granted. We must have you here, as Trumbull and [Pierrepont] Edwards will want to see us previous to presenting the Petition. To give you any idea of our situation without our worthy brother will be needless, as you can judge. I pity our worthy sister and children. Can any feeling person wish to confine a man who wishes to do justice from his amiable family? Could they see them, I am shure the *seen* would be altered. Is there any prospect of a *change*?

Tomorrow or on Monday I leave this with the stock for my vessell for New London, which is bound to the West Indies. I expect to return here by Thursday.

My sister with the children desire their love to you and Aunt Jay. They wish very much to see you boath.

On your way here you had better call on Mr. Edwards, who is our friend and has some friends in the house of Assembly. I thank Coll. Smith and you for the dog, and will pay him greater attention for the giver's sake.



May perfect happiness here and hereafter be your Lott,  
sais your affectionate Brother, JOHN WEBB.

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FROM RICHARD PLATT.

Dear Sir:

NEW YORK, December 27th, 1789.

I am favored with yours of the 16th covering Mr. Barrell's proposals, *which are inadmissable*, and likewise with yours of the 20th, in which you hold out some idea of staying in Boston till the 31st instant, in order to have my answer to the proposals above mentioned. This I confess embarrasses me, because I have engagements here which require a remittance of my money at an earlier period than that arrangement will produce; and another mortifying consideration is, that you and Mr. B[arrell] should think me so much in want of capital as to submit to a loss of 4000 dollars *douceur*, in order to embrace it. In answer to which I have to say that *notwithstanding many unforeseen difficulties and disappointments from abroad, yet I am able to comply with my engagements*. I asked of you to state to Mr. B. the *very precarious ground* I stood on with respect to the return of my certificates by Mr. Jefferson in season to return his loan, from which I hoped that *overtures* would have come *from him, assuring me* that in case of a failure of delivery on the day, no advantage would be taken of it; and you may well remember in order to qualify this, I told you in my last words on the Crane wharfe, "that if I should be fortunate enough to receive my certificates from J. any time before the period limited for a return, I would transmit him [Mr. B.] immediately." This I imagined would look so much like a reciprocity of accommodation, as readily to produce an equal return.

But no mention being made of any kind of accommodation on the part of Mr. B. thro you, it would seem to result (tho' I have too favourable an opinion of the honor and virtue of Mr. B. to exact an advantage) that I was held to a Bank engagement, thereby restricted to a day, and in case of non-punctuality, *posted* for a delinquent. To avoid therefore any possibility of endangering a reputation very dear to me, no small sacrifices have been made, and probably many disagreeable sensations felt.

Now then I have to thank Mr. B. for an extension of confidence in Mr. C. and R. P. to lend us 100,000 dollars, which at 10/ is certainly a serious thing, and to you I am indebted for your attention and zeal for our supposed interest. I am sorry the fates have so ordained that my money could not have been appropriated, but this I attribute to the rage, and not to the want of skill or exertion on your part. On the contrary I am persuaded of everything practicable being done.

I wish you the compliments of the season and a safe and speedy return, and am, Dr Sir, Your friend and obedt Servt,

RICHARD PLATT.

Endorsed: In the absence of Gen'l Webb, Mr. Joseph Barrell will please to receive this letter.

Addressed: General Sam'l B. Webb, Boston. Post.

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### TOASTS.

[1789?]

- 1 The President of the United States of America.
- 2 The Vice President of the United States of America.
- 3d The Federal Judiciary.

4th The Senate of the United States.

5th The Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

6th The late Federal Convention.

7th The Constitution of our country, may it prove the solid fabrick of American Liberty, prosperity, and glory.

8th The memory of those Heroes who fell in the defence of the liberties of America.

9th His Most Christian Majesty and the People of France.

10th Their High Mightinesses, the States General of the United Netherlands.

11th The Friendly Powers of Europe and the friends of Liberty throughout the Globe.

12 May the Blessings of Peace be long the happy lot of our country, and every Citizen of America feel himself deeply interested in the due execution of the laws of the Union.

13th The rights and powers of the Grand Jurors, may they ever be held sacred.<sup>1</sup>

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FROM RICHARD PLATT.

NEW YORK, January 14, 1790.

Dear General:

I give you a letter to Matthew McConnell, and one to Mr. Robert Smith, merchant in Philadelphia, both open for your perusal, which you will seal and deliver. And I put into your hands Alexander Robertson's order on said Mr. Smith for two notes of Matthew McConnell's in his

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<sup>1</sup> The last toast alone is in the writing of Webb.

hands, vizt. one for 1599. 9. 9 payable on the 16th January instant, another for 1404. 17. 4 payable on the 17th February next; and also a draft on Mr. Robert Smith for 823. 12. 11, which you will please to give him, as he has generously given his note for the same amount to Mr. McConnell, and my wish is to accommodate McConnell in the payment of his first note, which will be due by the time you get to Philadelphia, in the following manner, vizt. let him deduct out of it any balance I owe him in account, and likewise for his assumption or note for me for 396. 2. 4, and afterwards he can pay you what money is convenient (or in Indents @ 6/3 or at 6/6, if he has not before purchased for this note) to him, and then remit me either in cash or indents in some days afterwards; or in other words, let me tell you my idea is to accommodate him in the way most obliging to him, and corresponding with the terms in my letter to him, both for the first and second of his notes.

You have eight thousand four hundred and twenty-one dollars of finals given to you, which you will please to sell at from 9/ to 10/ cash, or exchange for indents; say give them, i. e. finals as above, and receive indents at 6/ or 7/, making 3/ difference in the prices. I am yours, &c.

RICHARD PLATT.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Sunday Morning, 28th February, 1790.

Dear Brother:

I think of all the springs I ever met with in my life I never knew the roads so bad as this. More than ten days last past since I have seen my Dear Partner, the roads are almost impassable. I now send you a salmon that weighs



28 lb. I hope it will arrive safe and in good order. I never saw a finer looking one. They are scarce and not to be got; but an honest country fellow came from Wright's Island, and brot it on purpose. He said to oblige an old friend, take this with you. He made me pay for every ounce. I hope it will come in due season to give you pleasure. Wadsworth called on me several times. I expected he would have called again. I am chagrined he did not; but I am now used to disappointments. One thing I wish; collect his sentiments and let me hear from you, good or bad. I am prepared to be calm and easy; it's almost out of their power to ruffle me any more. I should be glad in my retreat and lonely situation to read Dr. Gordon. Can you send it me. What shall I do with General Moylan? Will it, my Brother, do to sue so clever a fellow? I have wrote you so many letters that have not been answered, I hardly know what to write. I am, Dear Brother, wishing you health and happiness, Your affectionate Br.

J. WEBB.

Have I told you Humphrey settled with me. Mrs. W[ebb] is intirely without a carpet for either front room. What one would ypu advise me to buy? Will it do to send some money and buy a second hand one at vendue? Where is our friend Majr. Haskell? Brother Jack thinks of going out to St. Kitts. I think he will do well to go. He showed me your letter about Grandfather Webb.<sup>1</sup> I have been uneasy a long while, for fear the old gentleman will die in possession of the estate, and it may be forfeited. I have

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<sup>1</sup> Joseph Webb, born 1700. He married for his first wife Sarah Blachley and had one son Joseph — the father of Samuel Blachley Webb. He died sometime in 1791.



taken advice and the best counsel I can get say, as it was left in his hands for his support, we need not fear. If anything new turns up advise me, and I can do the needful. Pray write me the situation of my affairs in the hands of your attornies, of Colo. Burr, &c. I much wish for the copy of Dr. Jones demand against me on Phil Livingston debt. I suppose I owe nothing, but send me the necessary. I sometimes get low spirited, but most of the time I am cheerful and happy. At times I wish I was at some distance with my family, and that all the rest of the world would forget there was ever such a person as Jos. W.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Broadway No. 25, New York.  
With a Box containing a Salmon, Wt. 28 lbs.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Sunday, 28th February, 1790.

Dear Brother:

I wrote you two letters lately, one by a Mr. Hopkins, the other by a stranger. As I had nothing of any consequence to write you, I thought I would not trouble you with paying postage. That is the case at this time. But I suppose it must be a satisfaction to tell you the family are all in health and in tolerable spirits. Mrs. W[ebb] and the children desire to be remembered to you. Is there a probability of my brother's having any terms offered him from his credittors? It's impossible that he can do anything towards settling his matters while in prison, for there are many that will not go to a prison to settle accounts; then if he sues them, they bring in account against Silas Deane and say, that my brother told them that he would

pay them, by which means he has lost lately to a very great amount. And he is losing footing with the courts. They think his being kept there is from some fraudulent conduct. In short if they keep him there much longer I am afraid it will be both an injury to them and himself. It's their interest that he should be let out of prison. We shall inevitably lose all our hold on Silas Deane's matters if some one does not pay attention to them. Is there a probability of your coming up before the sitting of the General Assembly? Trumbull advises that we should bring a petition to the House, praying that the lands and property absolutely taken for bonifide debts of my father might be vested in us the heirs. Excuse this scrall. How are publick securities? Believe me to be with sincere affection and esteem your affectionate Brother,

JOHN.

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FROM JEREMIAH WADSWORTH.

HARTFORD, March 17th, 1790.

Dear Sir:

As the Lottery is to begin drawing on Monday after next, I will thank you to send the tickets unsold by next post under cover to Mr. Deane. Mr. Trumbull will frank them.

I am, Dear Sir, Your very H. Servt.,

JERE. WADSWORTH.

P. S. I spent an hour with your brother this day, and Mrs. Webb is now with us very well.

FROM MATTHEW McCONNELL.

PHILADELPHIA, 20th May, 1790.

Dear Sir:

I wrote you by a trusty person who went in the early stage this morning, and sent by him 8,511 dollars final settlements, with interest due on them 2065 dollars. These will be delivered this evening or early tomorrow morning, and I requested you to hold them in case you thought they would rise, but to sell for the highest cash price if you believed they would fall. Since that I was asked for a bill on New York at sight for three thousand dollars, and have drawn on you accordingly for that sum in favor of Wm. Backhouse and Wm. Laight. Now observe, if you have remitted me for the bills on LeRoy & Son you must sell as many of the above certificates for the most they will bring as will pay my draft; or if accident should prevent mine reaching you in time, sell as many of your own and I will replace them. I should like the bill paid without the usual grace, but in this you must be governed by circumstances. I am, Dear Sir,

MAT McCONNELL.

FROM MATTHEW McCONNELL.

PHILADELPHIA, 30th May, 1790.

Dear Sir:

This I expect will find you at home, and from the tenor of your last and the favourable circumstances that have been ever since taking place with regard to the funding bill, I take it for granted my certificates are still on hand and likely to remain so. This, with about 15,000 I bought in the beginning of last week, I consider a piece of good

fortune; but on the other hand I have been confined with the prevailing disorder for several days. If you could take the trouble to have the certificates registered I would like it. Also let me know what alterations, if any, are likely to be made in the bill in the Senate, and the prospect of the State debts in a separate bill. I am, Dear Sir, Your Hbl. Servt.

MAT. McCONNELL.

Addressed: General S. B. Webb or Col. Richd. Platt, New York.

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FROM WILLIAM POPHAM.

WEST CHESTER, August 9th, 1790.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you have the Judge of Probates' order for the sale of the lands.

Any assistance I can give you in the prosecution of this business I shall be happy to afford you. I am yours etc.

W. POPHAM.

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FROM JAMES STEWART.

NEW YORK, September 11th, 1790.

Kind Sir:

I received your favour of the 6th instant the 9th, or I should have answered you by post, and on inquire I found that Capt. Hathaway had sailed the evening before. You may be asured that I will send you the sample of wine by the first oportunity. I am extreemly sorry that the cask has hurt the wine; to prevent which in cleaning it I would not trust to my servent, but did it myself, and burnt brandy in it, which you know yourself I tooke all the care

that was in my power. If you have it drawing of amediety in the air into a sweet cask or demijohn, and stand it oping [open] in the sun it will recover its purity. I hope my good intentions knowing by you will plead my excuse with your friends. I inclose you the ten tickets you requested, and wish you success with them.

I cannot finde a tool chest that is large enough for the mony thay ask, but shall make further inquire without you say send the one I mentioned to you at eight pounds. I am, Kind Sir, Yr. Humb Servt.,

JAMES STEWART.

Addressed: Sam'l. B. Webb, Esqr. Claverack. To care Elihu C. Goodrich, Esqr. Postmaster.

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FROM STEPHEN HOGEBOOM.<sup>1</sup>

[CLAVERRACK, October 21, 1790.]

Dear Sir:

I have received from Caty the bad news of the price of wheat, but have since understood that it is risen to 7/. I hope it will find a price and not be so fluctuating, that we might be more properly directed to purchase here. I send you inclosed a kind of a certificate to Colo. Holdridge. He wants to purchase my pair of little bay horses and pay me out of it when properly obtained. This you are better acquainted with, and therefore would wish you to write me what manner this may be made sure to me, for I conceive Colo. Holdridge but in poor circumstances.

I shall want another quarter cask of cherry wine, if not

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<sup>1</sup> Judge Hogeboom, who married Hellitie, daughter of Killian Muller, of Claverack.



too Dear, as well for sale as for our own use. Pleas to let me know the price, as also price current of our produce.

Our family are all well and join with me in respect to you, and am, Sir, yrs etc.,

STEPHEN HOGEBOOM.

Addressed: Genl. Samuel B. Webb, New York. Postage paid. Elihu Chauncey Goodrich.

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FROM RICHARD PLATT.

NEW YORK, November 24, 1790.

Dear Webb:

Being out of town on Wednesday evening last and Sunday at Flushing, I did not before answer yours of the 14th current, and now I have only time to say a word to you, such is my extreme hurry of business. The money from your Brother has been left in my hands, to the amount of £45. o. 2, which you can have at sight. Bancker's 5 p cts. are worth 10/6 to 11/, and 6 p. cts. unexchangeable, 11/ to 11/6. Those which are exchangeable are worth 13/4 to 13/6. Interest certificates, deducting 1/4 paid, the remainder worth 9/ to 9/6.

I wish you will buy all you can of these kinds of paper, but you must try to get them lower than the prices above mentioned, or we shall not have much room to make anything. Send them by post and draw on me at sight or 5 days to any extent. Buy finals at 12/3 to 12/4, and Indents from 7/ to 7/3, to any amount. Transmit them, and draw on me for our mutual account.

I wish you every possible felicity, and pray make my best compliments to Mrs. Webb. In haste yours etc.,

R. PLATT.

FROM SARAH WICKHAM.

[1790?]

Sir:

I have sent you the whole tickets, and will be much obliged to you for renewing as many as the money will purchase.

I am extremely obliged to you for your politeness and attention, and be assured nothing will give me greater pleasure than an opportunity of returning it. I am with esteem your friend,

SARAH WICKHAM.

The ladies beg their compliments.

Thursday Morning.

FROM PASLEY, BARRY &amp; LITTLE.

TENERIFE, 15 January, 1791.

Sir:

We are directed by our friend Jose Barrell, Esqr., of Boston, to send you by the first opportunity for New York one pipe of particular wine.

We come now to wait on you with Capt. Brown of the Sloop *Polly* his Bill of Lading for the said pipe. The cost, £15 Sterling, we have charged to account of our above mentioned friend agreeable to his order, and we flatter ourselves that the quality will be found to your liking. We remain, Sir, Your most ob. Servants,

PASLEY, BARRY &amp; LITTLE.

FROM HENRY LIVINGSTON.

NEW YORK, March 16, 1791.

Dear General:

I only arrived here only yesterday. I have not had time to talk or consult with Judge Hogeboom about the elections. Mr. Bay I have seen and had a small conversation with him. I proposed a meeting with our members this evening, but I believe it cannot be had. Bay says that last year they did prommise Mr. Adgate<sup>1</sup> to support him as Senator this year. He, Bay, says he would have no objections to support Walter,<sup>2</sup> provided Mr. Adgate will resign. How matters will go I know not, but I depend upon your support. I will try to see our members if I can. I wish for no contest, but if we must have it I am prepared for the worst.

No news in town. You will observe by the papers that the last appointments made in Philadelphia some persons who were entitled to be preferred have as usual been neglected. Present my best respects to Mrs. Webb and your brother Jack.

I shall see you soon I hope. I am, Dr. General, your true friend,

HENRY LIVINGSTON.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew Adgate was a member of the Assembly from Columbia County, in 1791, with Stephen Hogeboom and James Savage as colleagues. In 1792 the representation had been enlarged, and from Columbia County came Benjamin Birdsall, Jared Coffin, Jacob Ford, Lawrence Hogeboom, Henry Livingston, and James Savage. Livingston was in service for only one session.

<sup>2</sup> Walter Livingston.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My dear Brother:

WETHERSFIELD, March 28th, 1791.

I have never received a line from you or our Brother *Samuel* since you left us, although I have written both several times; but I believe the communication for letters from Claverac is really very bad; so that I will not think too hard until I may see one of you. *Jona. S[impson]* has recovered two judgments against me for about twelve hundred pounds lawful money at our February Superior Court, since which I have never heard a word from him or his Attorney. Wadsworth is at home. I have hardly seen him. There is no letter or news from Jared *Bunce*. James Mitchell is at home. Jack Newson sold his vessel and has made Newson pretty remittances by way of New York. Newson has been down and brought home much cash. Thus I have told you the West India matters. Manning Wadsworth is going to marry Miss Nancy and settle at Pittsfield in trade. Deming has been up and purchased a place at Pittsfield, and been to New York and returned with goods. The Pittsfield goods I suppose are to go from N. York by water up the North River so far as they can. So the world goes. Nat has *paid* Chamberlain twenty-one dollars. We have never heard a single word from you, only accidentally from Mid[dletown] by Heza. Hosmer. We are all anxious to hear more particulars from you, Brother Sam, and our dear new sister. It was a pity you did not stay longer with us. Jack Lothrop is gone to the Singing Meeting, and I believe does not know of this opportunity to Sheffield by Manning Wadsworth, who promises to endeavor to get this letter to you, or he would have written you. I have settled the affair of

*Wale's* and got up the bond of C—— and your's in my own hands. I am as busy as any one can possibly be in adjusting old Accounts. Tell Sister Kitty she made us very happy, but we hope to see her in May, when we trust my Mrs. Webb's health and situation will make it more agreeable to her, and that she will make a most agreeable jaunt thro the country and be received with open arms. Colo. Chester has just gone from here. He is a most lovely, attentive, charming friend. It's now  $\frac{1}{2}$  after 11 o'clock, and the family and self much fatigued, and I am extreemly dull and sleepy. If you can make anything of this letter I shall be glad. I was in hopes you would before this have found out some good conveyance that we might write often. Little Jack grows finely and enquires when you are comeing home. I hope you or Brother Saml. will do the needful about *Thrasher*, Boardman, *Woodhouse*, &c. Seems to me I hear your *bad* growl, asking about salmon. There has been five caught, which sold at Hartford at a pistareen per lb. But none caught now on account of the rise of water. Lothrop will be here in the morning before he goes for Hartford to live. I will make him write if I can. Jo. Bull has been his friend indeed, and will still render him every service in his power. I am, Dear Brother, with love and compliments to every branch of the Hogeboom family.

Yr. affectionate [No signature.]

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FROM HENRY LIVINGSTON.

NEW YORK, March 29, 1791.

Dear General:

Since my last I have seen and conversed with Judge Hogeboom and Van Ness. They both appear to have a



wish to support my Brother Walter, but consider themselves in part bound to Adgate. What effect it will have upon their exertions in Adgate's favor I know not. I only sincerely regret that two such gentlemen are opposed to us, when they must know that the Senators of the State government are the only persons who represent the landed interest, and they, being both proprietors of lands, cannot have great faith in such a representative as Adgate. I shall depend upon your influence to advise and keep things upon their proper poise. I shall also depend upon your influence to forward our plan of electing Walter. Our friends north of Columbia will exert themselves in our favor, and all fair methods will be essayed. No news in town. Two ships from this port to London lost on the English coast. Our old friend [David] *Franks* is in this town in his way to Boston. He has the appointment of Inspector to the troops to be raised, with 3 dollars per day — a strange appointment. There is six gentlemen named by the President to receive the subscriptions to the national Bank, but not one farther north than Jersey, and every thing in like manner. Many applications for appointments in the Mint, but I suppose the President will give his choice favors to his choice Potomack friends. I wish to see a change. I shall be with you the next week. Mr. Hogeboom left this on Sunday last. I beg my best respects to Mrs. Webb and Vroman's family. Fish begs to be remembered. I am, Dr Sir, Your sincere friend,

HENRY LIVINGSTON.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Claverack.

## AGREEMENT.

This is to Certify that we the subscribers have this day agreed with Stephen Hogeboom Esqr., and Genl. Samuel B. Webb in manner following: We engage and insure that the ten tickets, the numbers of which are hereafter written, draw the sum of thirty-four pounds exclusive of the fifteen per cent deduction.<sup>1</sup> All deficiency of thirty-four pounds to be paid to Stephen Hogeboom by Samuel B. Webb immediately after drawing of said Lottery; viz. New York City Lottery, which is to commence drawing on the first Monday of May, 1791. The numbers are as follows 13,019, 13,025, 13,026, 13,027, 13,028, 13,033, 13,036, 13,038, 13,041 and 13,042. In witness whereof we have hereunto affixed our Names in Claverack, this 18th day of April, 1791.

ELIHU CHAUNCEY GOODRICH.

JOHN S. VAN RENSSELAER.

VISIT TO JOSEPH BARRELL.<sup>2</sup>

June 12, 1791.

Was politely received at dinner by Mr. Barrell and family, who shewed me his large and elegant arrangements for amusement and philosophic experiments. His birds played in a globe surrounded with a globe of water in which the fish play. He has an excellent portrait of Dr. Cooper, from the original with the Governor. He has an original of Mr. Clarke. He has a variety of paintings, engravings,

<sup>1</sup> From this point to the signatures is in the ms. of Webb. The tickets were the property of Stephen Hogeboom, and for them and this "insurance," Webb gave other ten tickets, equal to £20.

<sup>2</sup> From *Diary of Rev. William Bentley*, I. 264.

and representations in clay from China. He was an adventurer in the first voyage to the back parts of America [Columbia River], and has several great curiosities. His apparatus for experimental philosophy is good, especially for electricity. He has a good library. The house is elegant in all its furniture. His garden is beyond any example I have seen. A young grove is growing in the back ground, in the middle of which is a pond, decorated with four ships at anchor, and a marble figure in the centre. The Chinese manner is mixed with the European in the summer house, which fronts the houses below the flower gardens. Below is the hot house. In the apartment above are his flowers admitted more freely to the air, and above, a summer house with every convenience. The squares are decorated with marble figures as large as life. No expence is spared to render the whole amusing, instructive, and friendly.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, June 27th, 1791.

Dear Brother:

Your things went from here this day week, on board Butler, the coaster. I hope by this they are safe arrived, with the two pair *shoes* from Jones which I have debited you the making. The fish I have also sent. I should like several barrels of flour if convenient. Jack Webb is returned from *Stamford*; found the old gentleman in better health, and says he has taken the deed in your and his name. Parson Samuel Lockwood died up at New Lebanon pool. Its said he has made Billy his heir. He has left a handsome estate. All my affairs remain as they did when

you left me. We have not heard a word from you since Jack and Chester parted with you. You are too neglectful in answering letters. I hope the Attorney that is now collecting my affairs in your vicinity will be more vigilant and attentive than my former attornies. Woodhouse's note is in the hands of Maj. Sill's heirs.<sup>1</sup> The rest you know. I hope the debt against *Thrasher* is secured. I wish you would enquire after one Eliakim Flint, a cooper, somewhere up your world. Tell your good Mrs. Webb and sister Jenny we mourned at parting with them very much. We had a clever ride to farm and back; got home in fine season for *dinner*. Found Sally anxious for our return. Jack tells me you was unfortunate enough to take the worse road thro the green woods; the best is bad enough; but the road Jack came back in is better he says than the one you stumbled on. Remember me most tenderly and affectionately to all the good family of the Hogeboom House, and believe me with sincerity, Yr. Affectionate Brother,

JOSEPH WEBB.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Clavarack, State of New York.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, 30th June, 1791.

My Dear Brother:

Since you left this I have been to Stanford to see the old gentleman. I found him rather out of health, tho' I com-

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Sill, who entered the Continental army in the Quartermaster's and Paymaster's Departments, became aide to Lord Stirling, and thus attained the rank of major.



pleted the business by giving him the supplies he wanted, and took the deed in your and my name. He soon must take his departure. He desired to be remembered affectionately to you. I told him that it was probable that you would see him; there is some repairs wanting, [on] which I chose to see you previous to making.

I am arranging every matter of mine so as to be ready in October either to go the West Indies, or some where with you. For I must confess that I am very sick of this place for many reasons. There is no prospect that I see at present of our friends closing his affairs.

State paper has risen here. I hope should I not go to the West Indies, that you may fall on some plan that will be to our mutual advantage.

I yesterday went over to Hartford, and have got Mr. John W. Lothrop to take out administration on our father and mother's estate: so promise myself it will not be long before these matters are closed.

The family are all well and desire to be affectionately remembered to you all. They as well as myself are anxious to hear from you, how you got home. Tell Killian that I wish very much to see him, and will write him by the first private opportunity. Remember me particular to our worthy friend, the Dear Lady, and those of our friends who think proper to enquire after me. I wish you to tell me name of the man that is your gunsmith in New York. Write me if you please as soon as convenient. Believe me to be with sincere affection your Brother,

JOHN WEBB.

I wish you to write me what I had better do with Pen-  
dleton's matter. Should you go to New York I also could



wish you to call on Capt. Peter Schermerhorn, and see whether John McQueen and Colo. Saml Hammond have removed to East Florida. I am informed that they have. If so, I loose six hundred pounds sterling. You must remember me affectionately to my good sister and the family. Having a little leisure this afternoon I have been out to shoot a few woodcock for breakfast in the morning; the young have got to be very fine. I have much to say, but as I have one of my heavy hours come on I will leave it. I intend on Monday next to pay the farm at Coalchester a visit; then I have only a few days' business, when I shall continue there till all agree upon some plan. For I am determined to leave this in October, if I go to the West Indies in my own vessell. May God bless you all. My brother informs me that your trunks are gone on some time since to New York.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Clavarack, State of New York.<sup>1</sup>

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FROM STEPHEN HOGEBOOM.

CLAVERACK, 1 August, 1791.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of the 25th instant, in which I perceive the difficulty flung in the way of answering the orders. If this had been generally done, there would not be so much room for complaint. However I am persuaded, as you observe in your letter, that the treasurer<sup>2</sup> or some

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<sup>1</sup> The postage from Fairfield was 3/8.

<sup>2</sup> Gerardus Bancker was treasurer from 1778 to 1798, and had charge also of the Land Office.

of his clerks are concerned in the purchasing of those securities.

I have received a perticular information last Thursday, just after the mail had gone down, which I wanted to communicate to you with all dispatch, and wrote a letter immediately, sent Butler down to Hudson, to send it with a vessel. It was a probabillity of a speculation to be made within the City of New York, that there was the tenth day of this month in the treasurer's office certificates in the name of Genl. Ellexander McDougal to the amount of two thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven pounds. As they had laid there so long, and the General being dead, some means might perhaps be divised to procure them. This information I had of Colo. John McKinstrey,<sup>1</sup> who had a perticular list sent to him. I promised him if I succeeded, that he should have one-half of the profits, and I will divide my profits with you, if you can negotiate this business. No time ought to be lost, and with great precaution it ought to be undertaken. Colo. McKinstrey also told me that his list had *Richard Mulherins* name for a note of between six and seven pounds. This is also likely. You may purchase, if it is the merchant at New York. This will require proper investigation, for he has been part of his time in the war with the British in New York.

Killie set of last Monday morning for Susquehannah, and have not heard a word of him since. The most of those persons he has in view to purchase from he will be able to get identified by Colo. McKinstrey after his return, agreeable to what you mentioned in your letter.

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<sup>1</sup> Served in the New York State militia.

I believe I have forgot to put on the memorandum the names of David Bagley and Joseph Lyon, for to make particular inquiry respecting their pay. David Bagley entered first in Gansevoort's Regiment and was exchanged after he had gone into Vanschaick's Regiment. Joseph Lyon entered first in Colo. Gansevoort's Regiment, and from that into Colo. Vanschaicks Regiment.<sup>1</sup> They both have pay due by the account I have. The latter died in the service, and had entered for during the war, which has been made [to] appear by the oath of his father, and therefore ought to be entitled to soldier's bounty lands. Mr. Bay took this deposition of his father down to N. York, and had layed it before the Commissioners of the Land Office, in order to have his Name inserted for the State Bounty lands (as it seemed his name had been omitted). Capt. Connolly, I believe, advised with Mr. Bay respecting the lands for Joseph Lyon. I wish you would inquire into this, wheather it has been allowed by the Commissioners or not.

Colo. McKinstrey also informed me that his last list gave an account of three hundred pounds due to a religious society in Orange County. He did not incline to let me know from whom he had the list, but believe it was from one of the Treasurer's clerks. He desired perticularly not to have his name mentioned in any of this business. As you have business in the Jerseys, it will not be much out of your way to make an attempt to purchase the last mentioned sum. You can make an exact calculation what they are worth, so that you may offer sums in purchasing with safety. If those two sums could be properly taken hold of,

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<sup>1</sup> He died in the hospital at New Windsor at the end of the war.

it might render a good speculation. However I make no doubt but what you will do what is necessary in the premises, and am, sir, your sincere Friend and Humble Servant,

STEPHEN HOGEBOOM.

Addressed: Gen'l Samuel B. Webb, New York. At Colo. Platt's.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

My Dear Brother:

WETHERSFIELD, 4th August, 1791.

I am glad to hear you are once more in New York. Can you do anything by saying a good word for me to A[lsop], King, or any other? What a cruel dil[emma] I am in; the Horror's are almost upon me. Yet I endeavor to listen to the Voice of Philosophy. But reflect but for a moment, and you will allow it's the last situation one would be in. Accept my thanks for your proposal of sending me the flour. But as you have to pay cash for it, it's not worth while; there is a great plenty here. I hope your's and Sister Jenny's baggage arrived safe, but I do not find that in all your letters you say a word on the subject. Please to mention the particulars in your next. Let me urge your very serious *attention* to the enquiry of my Debts in your *Quarter*. If I remember right there is Thos. Wright, Seth Boardman, Lemuel Woodhouse, Eliphalet Flint, Asahel Thrasher, General Moylan, George Smith, Ashbel Webster. Write me freely and fully. I beg you would return me the *gun*; it will answer me, and save me buying a new one for Nat Fullerton, who is obliged to keep arms. And if you can, as you are now at York, send me on my Gordon's History and Stern's Works, you will very much oblige *me*. I wish you would write me the cost of



your saddle and the *maker's* name, as I must send and get me one made. Do you like yours? I am determined to have my affairs bro't to a close if there is any such thing in the *Book*. Depend upon it, let any one tell you what they please, it's not my fault it's not done. Should you write me ever again, let me beg you to write me an answer to all my letters since you was here. I hope to be able to arrange my affairs so as to be at New York in the month of September. I have the pleasure to tell you all the family are well, and desired to be remembered in the most tender, loving and affectionate manner. I am in hopes Sally will either go to Colo. Worthington, Springfield, to Norwich, or some where to spend a month. She is a charming girl, but I think it's full time she went abroad. When did you see Henry Livingston? Did your salt fish arrive in good order and to your mind? I fear the cask was not so good and tight as it ought to be. I hope you will not forget you promised us a visit early this fall. I am with love to Sister, Jo, Jenny, Killian and all the circle. Yr Most Affectionate Br.,

Jos. WEBB.

C—— S—— has been here and in town this long time. She is a vain strange creature as you ever saw; but more of this anon. I may have the pleasure of seeing you. Adieu. Adieu.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Octo. 18th, 1791.  
Tuesday Evening.

Dear Brother's

I have just returned from Hartford, and was surprised to find Jane and Grace and the onions not gone. Mrs.



W[ebb] says Stillman sent word he should go from the wharf in a hour. She *dispatched* Nat. [Fullerton] with all the necessaries, but it seemed a Mr. Clap on board was not willing to take *Jane*. Stillman said but little, they followed to Prat's ferry but all in vain. I am chagrined on account of yourself, and as I find my Mrs. W[ebb] extremely anxious, for fear I shall think she was neglectful.

I am sorry but I hope some other boat at Hartford will soon be going. I thot it my duty to let you know it. Mrs. W[ebb] is fully persuaded it was contrived to disappoint us in carrying off Jane. The family are all well. The family beg if convenient for the three following plays: 'The Heiress, The Gamester,<sup>1</sup> and The Bell's Stratagem.'<sup>2</sup>

Yr Afft. Frd and Br.,

JOSEPH WEBB.

General Webb or Major John Webb.

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, Saturday Morning, 10 o'clock,  
19th November, 1791.

My Dear Brother:

Yours of the 16th instant I have just received. I am sorry when I wrote to Jack I did not write him, that I had copied all the letters on purpose to show Barrell or Jack, should they arrive during Scovel's defence; which was fortunate, as Barrel arrived on Thursday, and immediately enquired for your Brother Jack or the letters. I was happy to have the copies by him. He askt me what Brother Jack would do. I could not even hint.

<sup>1</sup> By Edward Moore.

<sup>2</sup> By Mrs. Hannah Cowley.

He read the letters over and over, shook his head about *Slaves*. In short but little was said, only begged me to forward on Brother Jack's letters without fail by next stage. I am happy that Scovel has arrived in season. I shall send a boy to put them in the mail this evening. I confess to you I fear to advise; its too delicate a subject, unless one is more master of it than I am of his prospects. Here I am wholly ignorant. If the climate will suit his constitution, the prospect to me appears great. If I was a young man, I should not hesitate for it's nothing to go back and to Dimerary. The prospect of consignments — But the Plantation appears a certain fortune if a man understands his business, and will make English rum. See what the gentleman has done from Boston at Surinam, by going himself and carrying an English *distiller*.

Will it not be worth Jack's while to collect a valuable cargo and go on the spot, and examine and see for him[self], and conclude as circumstances appears? Indeed I wish not to advise. I wish him to consult Barrell, and follow his advice. Barrell will not leave him in the lurch, if he follows his advice. I believe if the climate should suit Brother Jack, he's well calculated for such an undertaking; but his leaving his friends and native country is still a very great thing. Perhaps the circumstances of your family may permit your coming on as far as here with him, or to *Boston*. It's really time that he persued some steady fixt plan.

I fully believe it's not riches alone that makes one happy; a genteel sufficiency is enough better here than to pursue foreign climes. But after all I cant say what is best and what to advise.

You better can than myself, as I have long been shut

out of the busy world of business. As to your Harness, the brasses are all this day compleated. Denny takes out a quantity of leather on Monday, and we are doing all we can to hurry it. But the leather Denny expected is not good enough, and therefore waits for a better prospect next week. As to coming to Clavarac, Mrs. Webb and Sally wish it, and I am get[ting] ready to go to Boston, or with you. Mrs. W[ebb] has not weaned her child yet, but expects to soon. Its full time Sally went abroad. I am sensible she is extremely thankful for your polite invitation, and doubts not it will be agreeable. But she's a little anxious about being left there, as it's so difficult to return at any time. The Chester families are all well, and very attentive and friendly to me. We have lately had several friendly parties at supper. Colo. C[hester] is a Jewel. His wife is very forward on her passage, like your Mrs. W[ebb]. Its thot her disorder will fall into her Arms, as we trust your good Ladies will. It's a fine, happy, delightful season. I send you two or three newspapers. Perhaps you may find something to amuse you. But let Jack bring them back if its convenient, as I keep my papers. I trust Jane and Grace are with you before this. I intended to have seen Riley at Rocky Hill and paid him the passage. But particular business prevented. Give Mrs. Webb and all the families love to every branch of the family. Sally scolds at Jenny for not writing her. Believe me to be Sincerely, Your affectionate Brother,

JOSEPH WEBB.

What I mean by getting ready is some old accounts and settlements, some debts arranged I fear may be outlawed. My sleigh and harness, &c., &c. I hope to come and now

expect it; but should business prevent, and the situation of your wife prevent, are circumstances to be allowed for. However I shall soon be able to write you again. Did Brother Jack receive a letter I sent by Heman Hoffman? Scovel drives with a variety of other affairs, besides a sick head ache almost crazes me. So for better or worse I send this letter. I could not write another, or even look over this.

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FROM WILLIAM S. LIVINGSTON.

NEW YORK, November 20th, 1791.

Dear Webb:

I should have acknowledged the receipt of your letter long since, but as I could not give satisfactory accounts, delayed it till now. Mr. Bleecker and myself waited upon the Treasurer. I requested a Categorical Answer from him whether he would or would not issue the Certificates. I found him somewhat pliant. In this moment I thought best to alarm his fears. The threats of entering a Protest, and an Intimation given him that his mode and manner of doing business of the same nature differed with different people, and could be attributed to but one source, had the desired effect. He promised Mr. Bleecker to issue them, and I suppose ere this you have received them.

Receiving no answer from Mr. Duyckinck about the Wench, I wrote a letter to Mr. Kirkpatrick, a gentleman of our profession in Brunswick, and desired Mr. Voorhies who was the bearer of it to give him the other papers. He will take the necessary steps immediately for the recovery of the Wench. And I think she will be here this week. You have nothing to apprehend from your Friend Cary. I



shall give you a particular account of my interview with him in my next. I am preparing for the press and am in a hurry. Present our best respects to Mrs. Webb and all friends. I am Yours sincerely,

Wm. S. LIVINGSTON.

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FROM PETER VAN SCHAICK.

KINDERHOOK, 29 December, 1791.

Dear Sir:

Dirck Goes's mills were yesterday struck off at vendue for fifty-four pounds, but as the late sheriff was on the point of going to New York, the deed yet remains to be executed. In order to prepare it, it is absolutely necessary that I have the warrant upon which the seizure or levy was made, or at least a copy of it. Mr. Hogeboom says he returned it to you. If when you send it to me (which I beg may be without delay) you would point out the act upon which it was grounded I should be obliged to you, as I am informed that the levy was made antecedent to the existing act.

As to Mr. Gridley, there is great grumbling in our town against him, occasioned by the tax now collecting for his delinquency, while he himself is also busy in levying the arrears. Thus the candle is lit at both ends. I sincerely wish I could have a full state of this whole business, that I might examine all the acts which relate to it. As to the Poor tax, which he contends he is accountable for to the Overseers of the Poor and not to you, I think you told me that in the proceedings of the Supervisors it was blended with our portion of the contingent county charge. This may be very material, and I wish I could know precisely



how this fact is. A transcript of the Supervisors' minutes might be satisfactory. Pray how was the warrant to the Collector? Was the Poor tax distinguished or not from the rest? You will excuse me if, for want of knowing the common methods of proceeding in these cases, I should ask questions not pertinent.

If you should have occasion to come this way, pray call in and take a bit of mutton with me. Yours sincerely,

PETER VAN SCHAICK.

Endorsed: Mr. Van Alen will call on you tomorrow for an answer.

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FROM JAMES FAIRLIE.

Mr. Fairlie's Compliments to Genl. Webb and requests his acceptance of a very small saddle of venison. Mrs. and Mr. F. are happy to hear of Mrs. W. being so far on the recovery from her late indisposition. They desire their compliments to Mrs. Webb.

ALBANY, January 25, 1792.

Addressed: General Webb, Claverack. Hon'd by Capt. Huyck.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, February 21, 1792.  
Eight o'clock.

Dear Brother:

Yours of the 18th instant I received from Mr. Goodrich yesterday at nine o'clock in the morning. Had the letter arrived one hour sooner I could have forwarded those Boston ones by a safe and good private opportunity. None

can now be found untill the stage on Thursday, when I shall take care to *forward* them.

Brother Jack has gone to Boston, and since which I have not heard from him. Goodrich and *Ranslaer* went over to my house and drank *tea* last evening, and will dine with me one day this week. The venison is very acceptable.

Sally reckons much on paying you a visit this winter; so does Mrs. W[ebb]. But when you recollect in addition to what I write to you on the 8th and 13th, in addition, that all our Book Debts in this State of more than six year's standing will be outlawed the first of next May, you will readily make every allowance for the seeming neglect of our not coming.

HARTFORD, Tuesday morning 1 o'clock.

Mr. Hogeboom has just called on me and says he has been down to Wethersfield, but must return immediately. I have endeavored to persuade him to go back, but to no purpose. He pleads urgent business back. I am extremely sorry, for I look upon him a very worthy young fellow. I have engaged the slippers for Sister Webb and will forward them by Mr. Goodrich. The salmon in *season*, can get you any quantity. I hope the harness will please you; I think it's good. I believe Brother Jack never saw it. The nuts I sent as soon as I could get them here; they were extremely scarce. I sent a barrel to *Jos B[arrell]*, *Boston*. I should be happy to see you with your wife, *New comer*, or any of the Hogeboom family, and wish you was here now, as we are all well and happy (except Mrs. W[ebb] is without a woman to take care of the *children*, but I hope this will be but for a few days, tho its more difficult to get a good one after the *Accident* I have related to you.) Poor

Sam Burr of Hartford, on a visit to Wethersfield last Saturday, died in a fit. But it's fine and healthy.

I do not quite give up the thoughts of a runing visit to you, but it must be a short one on account of my affairs at home. But I much wish to see you if but one hour. But yet do not depend on my coming for a moment, for a thousand reasons I have given and you know. I am, dear Sam, with love to all, Yr affectionate friend and brother,

JOSEPH WEBB.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Clavarack. Per Mr. K. Hogeboom.

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TO WILLIAM HENRY LUDLOW.<sup>1</sup>

CLAVERACK, Tuesday, 21st February, 1792.

Sir:

I am sorry to inform you, that on mature deliberation I find myself compelled to say that the terms of sale for the house of your's which I now occupy are so far beyond my expectations (and of course in my judgment too high), that I cannot agree with either of the propositions. I sincerely wish you may meet with a good sale. At the same time beg leave to observe if you should not sell, that I shall esteem it a favor I may have the refusal for renting, or if you should hereafter alter your terms, that you would be so obligeing as to give me information thereof. I am, sir, with Esteem your Most Obdt. Servt.,

SAML. B. WEBB.

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<sup>1</sup> Son of Henry Ludlow, who removed from New York city to Claverack. A sister, Sarah, was wife of Richard Morris.

FROM HENRY LIVINGSTON.

NEW YORK, March 17, 1792.

Dear General:

Capt. Ten Broek delivered me your favor with the bundle of orders, all which I will do the best I can for you. They have not been presented as yet, owing to Bancker's being absolutely engaged in the Land office for these last two days past. Their is a law which has had its second reading to direct the reissue (?) about Certificates for military services. I will send you the law by Ten Broek. I now stand so fair with Mr. B. that I believe I can do you a friendship, if any person can.

March 18, Sunday Evening.

Your favor of the 15 I received this moment. I shall attend to every particular. The matter of Duer<sup>1</sup> is almost come to a crisis; tomorrow he is to meet his creditors, but be assured his failure will ruin very many.

Mr. Radcliff<sup>2</sup> who has brought down a letter from our county requesting Schuyler, Van Ness and myself, to urge the idea of a relinquishment of Jay, and Yates to come forward,<sup>3</sup> has had no effect, as Mr. R[adcliff] tells me that the gentlemen who were so precipitate in supporting *Jay* will not mention the matter to him, and talk of certain success. (I am not of that number), for I have called on Yates and beg him again to come forward; but he tells me his *friends*

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<sup>1</sup> William Duer, whose failure dragged down many others.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Jacob Radcliff.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Yates had been the opposition candidate in 1789, but George Clinton won the election by a vote of 6,391 to 5,962. In 1792 Jay was run and lost by one hundred and eight votes, receiving 8,332 against 8,440 for Clinton. Three years later Jay and Yates were the candidates, and Jay was elected.

advise him not. This I believe; for sure I am it never was their intentions. He is not the man for them and I, who hate Clinton, must now out of revenge take him up; for I am sure *Yates* would come forward if he might be left to judge for himself. I shall write you freely soon. Mr. [Jacob] Ford, I hear, is to be held up for Senator by Jay's party. We propose my brother John Livingston.<sup>1</sup>

The new road that Mr. Hogeboom mentioned to me, I could not get our members to agree in; for which reason Mr. Ford moved at my request for £200 for the long bridge at Millers and Doctor Vrooman. The Commission Law has passed our House, but I fear the Senate. We have also got £800 for Kinderhook Bridge.

I have no time to say more, all things in this city in confusion. I hear your friend Platt is some what injured by Duer, and many others, particularly Mrs. McCarty, the Bawdy House keeper, and Parson Moore. I am sincerely and affy. Yours,

H. LIVINGSTON.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Claverack, Columbia County.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, May 17th, 1792.

Dear Brother:

I have the pleasure to tell you that we had a most agreeable pleasant jaunt to Pettibone the first day. I beg you to accept my thanks for your and family's attention. We parted on Monday morning before breakfast, and Sally rode on horse back in three hours and a few minutes to Lee's at

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<sup>1</sup> Livingston was elected.



New Hartford, where I rested and spent three hours to examine my tan works buildings, &c., &c., and after all that arrived home before sundown, and all hands drank tea with our mutual friend Colo. Chester, who behaves up to the Charm. I was surprised to find Sally stand the jaunt so well. My Mrs. Webb was much disappointed that I did not bring on any of the young *ladies*. Tell Mr. Hogeboom and lady, that if they will pay us a visit we shall be happy to see them, and they will find in Colo. Chester, the old lady, Mr. Mitchell, and some others, a pretty circle of friends that will be happy to welcome them here. Brother *Jack* arrived home on Tuesday evening. He thinks of writing you by the stage, so I shall refer you to him for the business you mentioned. I have enough to do to crack one's brains, but I endeavor to keep steady and do the best I can. Wadsworth got home last Thursday. I saw him yesterday, but not a word passed on business. I drank *tea* with him and all was clever. We are cold friends, yet we are *Friends*. We are so-so, and so-so is pretty well. I have written Gerry G. Beekman this post. I hope he will come in with the rest. I hardly know which way to turn. I have valuable Friends and connections here, but nothing can I determine untill I converse freely with Wadsworth. Jo. Barrel is agoing to build in Charlestown, on Cobble Hill, and gives over the thoughts of going Southard. This is rather another disappointment, but I am used to them. My Mrs. Webb is sorry she did not go along with me; I confess I am sorry. Tell the good Doctor I am much pleased with him, therefore he must be pleased with me. So am I with his wife, and indeed all the family. I think you may be happy if you can form some line of business to support an *income*. Is there the least prospect

of my having a sufficient run of business at Hudson, should I buy a place there? I know where I shall settle. I believe on the whole I shall do well to get thro with my business and settle down in this town. Depend upon it my old business once settled, I should be able to do business to much advantage, be respected, loved and honored. Such cursed old Accounts to settle would make the Angel *Gabriel* have *enemies*. They once settled, friends would be as before. But to be honest I shall not hardly think of any plan at present. I suppose any conjecture would be wrong. I could go into Partnership at Hartford. I could doubtless make a handsome affair of it, if I would go back upon some new lands I have in Vermont. But the education of my family is a very serious matter. I cant think of going to Boston or New York for many reasons. I am quite at a loss. I am at present mighty happy in this old mansion — plenty and enjoy myself, all healthy, and in fine spirits. Sally got home without the least fatigue and met with a great number of friends and connections that evening, but was urged to go to a grand *Ball* at Hartford that same evening. But she wisely stayed at home, and we had a happy jovial meeting. All seemed happy to meet us. She feels with gratitude your politeness, and will write her Aunt and the girls so soon as a good and private opportunity offers, which I trust will be in a few days. Has Henry Livingston got home? What said he about me? How is your little daughter? When leisure and opportunity offers, write. I show Jack your memorandum; but he has since been to Hartford, but has said nothing to me on the subject. Have you written by some private opportunity to Eleazer Miller? Why cant you come and spend some time with Kitty, and let us take Bones of our

Bones and make a party to Jo. Barrel, and we'll add Colo. Chester. Barrel wishes it extremely, tho I believe he's extreemly busy in His new buildings. I am with love to the family, your aff.

J. WEBB.

Mrs. Ludlow was to have written or given Sally some account of her situation, that I might acquaint Mrs. Porter. She forgot it I suppose. You may tell her I will do all she requests of me. Our salmon and shad fishery continue fine.

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FROM JAMES STUART.

NEW YORK, June 12th, 1792.

Sir:

I beg your pardon in omiting your oil, which I now send with ten gallons brandy, doz. tea spoons, and child's whistle, a band box. I wish I could likewise send you the hams, but good ones is not to be had. Should any come to market I will not forget you and Coln. Livingston. I am sorry for the los of the wine, for I have frequently warned the cooper of them. I hope you do not think it a neglect of mine.

We are all don over, over, over. O, with respect to Govener, thay throwed out the Otsego votes becaus that they had made use of Tow Twine insted of tape in seling up as the Law requires, or some such foolish thing, not forgetting that Otsego had no sherrif. While I am writing Coln. B. is discharging his cannon for joy of one hunder and eight majority. I am with respect to Mrs. Webb, and hope this wil fined you all in health, as I am, &c., &c.

JAMES STUART.

FROM JAMES STUART.

NEW YORK, June 21, 1792.

Kind Sir:

I received thirty dollars from Mr. Hogeboom, for which I return you my thanks, and now send you eight hams. Thair was 12 came from Brunswick, but Capt. H. Livingston requested four. If thay pleas you, and should more come to hand, I will retain some for my friends order. My wife sends the fringe, and if thair should be any thing more that Mrs. Webb should want she has no more than to lay her commands.

By this time you have received the things by *Hathaway*, as likewise my letter. We have had a *glorious* meting about the Govener as you will see by the papers; as thay will inform you much better then I can, I will conclude. Wishing you and yours health and happiness I am, Dear Sir, yours,

JAMES STUART.

N. B. if it is your wish I will pay Mr. Van Voorhies bill.

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FROM GILBERT ASPINWALL.<sup>1</sup>

NEW YORK, July 29th, 1792.

Dear Sir:

I have received the certificates from Mr. Bancker for the greater part of the orders you forwarded me, and shall send them to you by the first good private opportunity.

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<sup>1</sup> Son of John Aspinwall, of Flushing, who died of a paralytic stroke, July 15, 1774, aged sixty-eight.



The postage would be too heavy if I was to send them by post.

I have requested in a letter to you (inclosed with the Certificates) that you would purchase for me, provided you thought he would make a good chaise horse, the three year old colt I saw at Claverack, if he can be had at £45 delivered to you, or 50 if the owner will deliver him to me here sound. If the owner will take £45 I will be much obliged to you to send him by some of your packets, and I will send up the money immediately. If the Grey Horse can be had at the same price, or even £5 more, I would like him quite as well.

With best respects to Mrs. Webb and your Brother I am,  
Dr. Sir, your friend,

G. ASPINWALL.

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FROM RICHARD PLATT.

NEW YORK, Thursday, 25th October, 1792.

Dear General:

I have been long in expectation of the pleasure of seeing you, or should have written you ere now. Last Saturday the Commodore shipped Pompey for home, but I dont know the Captain's name. I hope he has arrived safe and sound. Many thanks are due for him. I did not go to the Brush myself. Old Corn[elius] and J. Winter went and had a pleasing jaunt of a week, and got in company with Skinner to brace.

I hope you mean soon to visit New York. Till when I am, Dr. Sir, with complts. to Mrs. Webb and Brother Jack, as always your friend and Servt.,

RICHARD PLATT.



FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

Dear Brother:

WETHERSFIELD, April 1, 1793.

I have written you by several different routes; not certain that one will arrive to you. I almost wish I had sent off express, but the uncertainty of General Webb being at Claverack, the expense and a variety of matters. You must know Trumbull expected you over the first week in March, and is much disappointed you did not come. Finally I sent off Jerry express for you. You not coming I was obliged to meet the Auditors, and was happy enough to be as well prepared as Barny and Jesse, and rather better. They moved for an adjournment on Account of General Webb's having a particular book which Barny says he gave General Webb, which he promised to return him but has not; therefore if there is such a book, it must be exhibited. Therefore you will be here on Tuesday morning at nine o'clock, with all the papers and exhibits. It will be well to be in due season so as to plan together. I have much to say, but am crazy for want of money, Money, Money. I hope we shall all meet once more together. Sally is yet in Boston. Our family mighty well and tolerable happy. Next week we shall have plenty of salmon. I would send your garden seeds if I had an opportunity. Jerry got home Saturday evening. Let me advise you to get your plank sawed immediately, rough planed dressed, piled up; the April weather will season it beyond all description. Mind to let the air pass thro, but covered from rain; but let the air have free passage. I hope I have said enough to make you come in season. Bring me some corn salad seed. Farewell. I am your affy. fd and Brother,

JOS. WEBB.

## FROM BENJAMIN MOORE.

COXSACKIE, 6th September, 1794.

Dear Sir:

Yours of this day I have received. Am sorry for the loss of Mr. Hogeboom, and particularly so, when I consider that it debars us of the company of our friends. However shall expect you by the time last mentioned at farthest. I am happy to hear that you have a letter from the Doctor, otherwise there would have been great anxiety for their welfare, &c.

I observe you have had some sport among the pigeons upon the old ground. One thing you may promise yourself when here, that is to have a little fun among the black-birds, and probably ducks. Please to present my love to Mrs. Webb and others of our friends at Claverack and believe, Dr. Sir, your sincerest Friend,

BENJ. MOORE.

Peaches are a fruit that we cannot get at this place.

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FROM AMBROSE SPENCER.<sup>1</sup>

Dear General:

The rule on the sheriff can only be to return the Examination in 20 days, and he has a right to make the usual return that the goods are on hand, unsold for want of bidders. If after this the sheriff proceeds, in my opinion

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<sup>1</sup> In February, 1804, Ambrose Spencer was appointed a Puisne Justice in place of Jacob Radcliff, who resigned; and in 1819 became Chief Justice in the Supreme Court of Judicature. He was as capable a politician as judge, and took an active part in a very active period in New York politics. One of his opponents was Chancellor Kent.

he acts like a rascal, and I should not hesitate to tell him so. I shall see him in a few days. I am this moment getting off for Da[torn].

Yours in haste, A. SPENCER.

[HUDSON], Decr. 24th, 1798.

FROM HEZEKIAH L. HOSMER.<sup>1</sup>

Dear Sir:

I have only time to inform you that I have this moment received your letter and Mrs. Vrooman's, and that I will immediately attend to her request. To draw a will<sup>2</sup> such as she desires will take some time and be the result of considerable reflection. This will retard it some days.

We yesterday ordered 1200 copies of the new dispatches communicated to us by the President to be printed.<sup>3</sup> I shall inclose them as soon as possible. Give my love to all friends.

H. L. HOSMER.

[PHILADELPHIA,] January 22d, 1799.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Hudson, New York. Free. H. L. Hosmer.

FROM HEZEKIAH L. HOSMER.

My Dear Friend:

You may suppose perhaps from my long silence that I have forgotten you and been unattentive to your wishes.

<sup>1</sup> A lawyer and now representative in the Fifth Congress. He does not appear to have had any previous service in the State legislature.

<sup>2</sup> For Mrs. Wimple.

<sup>3</sup> The papers on the relations with France, which included the X. Y. Z. letters and Pickering's elaborate statement.

In this, however, you would do me injustice. I have attended to your request and have almost completed the will. I hope to be able to transmit it to you in a few days. From the provisions of it you may suppose that it would necessarily be a work of time, and here very little of our time is unoccupied.

We yesterday passed in our House a bill to augment our Navy by building six ships of 74 guns. This measure was violently opposed, but at last carried by a majority of twelve.

We have no news. Our papers are entirely barren or I would inclose one.

Give my love to Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Vrooman, and all our friends at Claverack. I am yours &c.,

H. L. HOSMER.

February 12th, 1799.

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

SALISBURY, 21st February, 1800.

Dear Brother:

I received your friendly letter, dated 12th instant two days since. It gave us great pleasure to hear that our sister was comfortable, and that the child was. Please to remember us to her, in which Mary joins. She, Mary, arrived here on Sunday morning.

We should have been made happy to have you and your friends have come instead of the letter, though I have so frequently been told of your coming and been disappointed, that I never shall believe that you intend coming till I see you at my house. I expect to leave this for Hartford on Monday next with Mary, and to return on Saturday; when,



after you pay us a visit, I intend her to come and see her aunt and friends, which she very much wishes.

I have been trying to purchase you a fat ox, but find it extremely difficult to [do] without purchasing a pair, as they do not chuse to sell one alone. I am just informed that Mr. Sedem has a pair. I intend seeing him, when I will write you.

We left at your house our umbrella and a corn broom; be so good if you see any of my neighbors to send them to us.

Grain in cash is much hire here than with you.

I suppose you have heard that Amos Bull has served a Petition of Devorse on our Sister Abby. God bless them, and take them to themselves.

I am, my Dear Brother, wishing you perfect happiness and yours. Yours affectionately,

JOHN WEBB.

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FROM DAVID THOMAS.<sup>1</sup>

ALBANY, 8th March, 1800.

Dear Sir:

Yesterday the House determined against committing the bill for annexing Columbia County to the eastern district. Mr. Van Renslair<sup>2</sup> then asked and obtained leave to withdraw it. We have passed a bill to revise the statutes of this state, but have not appointed the Commissioners. Judges Kent and Radcliff are spoken of, Judge Yates and Mr. Emot<sup>3</sup> are also mentioned. We have also passed a bill engaging to pay the debt assumed by Congress,

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<sup>1</sup> He represented Washington County in the Assembly, 1798-1800.

<sup>2</sup> John Robert Van Rensselaer, of Columbia County.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Addis Emmet.



which is equal to about 660,000 dollars specie. I was opposed to it for several reasons. I believe the ballance between the several states was unfairly struck, and am persuaded, had we not been so precipitate in closing with this proposal, one more advantageous would have been offered. This appropriation will very materially affect our funds, which are already very much exhausted. If a better bargain could have been obtained, or a probable prospect of it, I think it bad policy not to seek it before we involve ourselves in a debt so heavy and, as I believe, so unjust; but as I am in the house, cannot enlarge. Shall be happy to hear from you. Present my profound respects to Mrs. Webb and all friends and accept the same yourself. From your unfeigned friend,

DAVID THOMAS.

Addressed: General Samuel B. Webb, Claverack, Columbia County.  
Sheriff Ten Broeck.

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FROM MARY N. WEBB.

PLEASANT HILL,<sup>1</sup> 17th March, 1800.  
Monday Morning.

My Dearest Uncle:

I have but a moment's time allowed me to enquire after your health, after my affectionate Aunt Webb, and the lovely children. As your Brother Mr. Hogeboom is below and leaves us directly for home, I put off writing, not expecting him here till afternoon. He has made us but a short visit. Uncle and the family are well pleased with him. I am sorry he could not stay and attend the Play with us this evening. When you see Papa, Uncle, I will thank

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<sup>1</sup> Near Boston.

you to tell him I am very well and happy. Your letter gave Uncle and Aunt much pleasure. Could you have seen the reception it met with I think it would induce you to write often. I will be much obliged to you Uncle to put the inclosed immediately into the Hudson post office. I anticipate the pleasure of seeing you and your lovely family next June. Till then I must bid you adieu. My kind love to Aunt, and accept the heartfelt affection of your niece,

MARY N. WEBB.

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FROM RICHARD PLATT.

NEW YORK, October 14th, 1800.

Dear Sir:

Enquiring of your health of our friend Jacob Renssalaer a few days past I was very much gratified to hear it was better than I was apprehensive of. I pray you, my good sir, that it may continue and get as much better established as possible from the nature of circumstances.

At last, after so many years of stagnation, I am in hopes of being once more again free. I am now in the hands of the Commissioners of Bankruptcy, and by the 13th of next month my fate will be determined; but unless  $\frac{2}{3}$  of my creditors in no. and Amt. will consent to a certificate of discharge, it cannot be obtained.

Miss Aspinwall is now taking some of the medicine prescribed by our late worthy friend Doctor Vrooman. The prescription allots four equal parts to be put in a pint of water each. She wishes me to enquire of you whether there ought to be a continuation beyond the four pints or not; in other words whether she should go on with another quantity or portion of it. Be pleased to inform me

about this, and all other things relating to your interest, &c. I am, Dr. Sir, with best wishes for your health and happiness and that of your family, truly and sincerely your friend, &c.,

RICHARD PLATT.

Mrs. Platt has within a few days presented me with a fine little daughter, and she is in a fair way of recovery at Flushing. I have now two boys and a girl living.

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FROM DAVID A. OGDEN.

Sir:

Your letter addressed to David C. Ogden was forwarded by me to David B. Ogden of New York, the Administrator of my father's estate and for whom I presume you intended it.

The enclosed letter he has requested me to forward and I presume it will furnish you with the information required.

It is now more than eight years since I left my father's office, during which time I have been in business on my own account. I have no recollection of the debts alluded to in your letter. With due respect I am, sir, your most obt. servt.,

DAVID A. OGDEN.

NEW YORK, Novr. 10th, 1800.

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FROM L. DELABIGARRE.

TIVOLI, REDHOOK LANDING, August 15, 1801.

General:

Being informed that you want a pointer for this season, I can secure one to you for half the price it cost me, viz.

10 dollars. It is a fine well broken bitch, which I bought 3 years ago for 20 dollars from a Swiss gentleman. She fetches any kind of game even out of the water. If you send for her within a fortnight you may have her; but as I am unwell and have no hope of enjoying any sport this season, I will send her to N. York by the 1st of September. Thus I thought to make you this offer before. Yours most respectfully,

LD. DELABIGARRE.

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FROM JAMES ALEXANDER.<sup>1</sup>

TRENTON, August 29, 1801.

Dear Sir:

The deed from Davis and wife to the Trustees came safe to hand, but on account of its not being acknowledged, had not the desired effect. We were cast; the Widow of Davis has gained her Dower, tho not in equity and good conscience entitled to it. The only thing now remaining is to find out the Deed from Peter Sutfin, Peter Dumont and John Tenbrooeck to John Duyckinck, if possible, which I presume and hope are among your papers. Now, sir, if you will be so oblidging as to send the Deed above mentioned by Doctor John Howell, an honest and careful man, if he should call on you on his return from Albany; but if his business should oblige him to go some other rout, please to send the Deed enclosed by the mail to me, or if you would rather, to your friend Gov. Richard Howell, who will be careful of any papers committed to his charge.

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<sup>1</sup> Son of James Alexander, of New Perth, Charlotte County, who died in 1783. He left a wife, Catherine, and two children, Jenny and James.



I have been at a great deal of trouble and expense already about this business, and should I now fail in getting the above mentioned Deed, I shall be ruined, for I am poor. I am with respect yours, &c.,

JAMES ALEXANDER.

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FROM JAMES A. BAYARD.<sup>1</sup>

WASHINGTON, 12 January, 1802.

Dear Sir:

The letter you wrote me on the 5th instant I had the pleasure of receiving last evening.

The prospect is not so flattering as you seem to imagine as to the recovery of your debt due from Mr. Vining.

Mr. Vining had two plantations, the only known funds from which his creditors could expect anything. There were incumbrances against them of long standing and to large amount. He sold the principal plantation to a Mr. McClyments for ten thousand dollars. The purchaser undertook to discharge the incumbrances to the amount of his purchase, and in order to protect himself against charges to a greater amount took a mortgage in the sum of £1000 on the other plantation. This mortgage is a short time anterior to the date of our judgment. It has been impossible for me to get an account from McClyment of what is due under the mortgage, and it has been equally impracticable to ascertain what is due on outstanding judgments. There is a long list open on the records, and Vining himself does not know whether they have been paid.

The remaining plantation I have generally heard esti-

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<sup>1</sup> James Asheton Bayard, of Delaware, then in the United States House of Representatives.



mated at the value of dollars 4000. Much will depend upon the sale. It is in a part of the country where there can be little competition if the land be sold at auction.

We have gone through all the forms necessary to enable a sale, and process has issued for the sale, but with directions not to sell under 4000 dollars. Should it sell for less we probably should get nothing; and even if it sell for that sum I can give no assurances as to what we are likely to get. The property is so involved in incumbrances, and those incumbrances so involved in obscurity, that I suspect no one is precisely acquainted with the state of the business.

The only compulsory remedy we have to obtain a disclosure and an account from McClyment is a Bill in Chancery. I have avoided that step owing to the trouble, expence and delay which attends it. In the course of the ensuing summer I flatter myself the affair may be finally adjusted; and there shall be no exertion wanting on my part to [the] accomplishment [of] a settlement most favourable to your interest.

I should have been much gratified in having had it in my power to present you with better prospects, but I could not consent to create hopes which ultimately might be disappointment. I have the honor to be Sir, your very obt. Servt.,

J. A. BAYARD.

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FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, February 2, 1802.

Dear Brother:

I expected before this to have been at your house, but have waited for a letter from you about H. L[ivingston].

James Fortune tells me he saw you. Pray what could call the fellow there — for no good. I hope you'll have nothing to do with him. He is the very fellow that lives in the Mansion house, but more of this when I see you. Jack has not been down since some time in October. He talks of building on his farm at Canaan. Tryon is a very worthy respectable good man. He comes to enquire about Tenbrock farm, the Webbs' farm, &c. I have referred him to you for advice. Any attention paid him will be paid to one of my best friends and to a charming worthy man. I hope your good wives disorder has gone into her arms before this. Mrs. John Chester was put to bed with a fine boy last Fryday evening. I have not time to add only that I am, with love to you all, your most friendly,

JOS. WEBB.

I suspect Mr. Fortune was after some land, but I think you will have nothing to do with him or any other person untill I see you. Capt. Tryon has plenty of money, but wants a good bargain or none. He has established one son at Hartford very handsomely with John Morgan. I think you will be pleased with Capt. Tryon and I trust will render him every service he may want. He thinks much of moving on a large farm, yet near some good town for navigation, as he has several fine smart active sons, all well acquainted with trade and navigation. Should he move to your quarter it will be an acquisition to your party. He and his good wife are charming. Her great fear is about meeting on Sunday, but it's not far to Hudson, where I suppose is a steady Decenting meeting, Quaker meetings, Church of England, or almost any other meeting. But Claverack, I can't say much about their church or meetings.

So I find Killy <sup>1</sup> has obtained his wish about getting the clerkship of your county. Oh Jefferson! We Federalists are much alarmed and fear the Constitution is gone, or rather going. What can be done to save it? We must exert ourselves. Your friend Colo. Chester is extremely warm. Tryon is a good Federalist. For any further information I must refer you to Capt. Tryon. I believe he will be in company with Capt. Clark, who I think you must have known at Middletown, and heard of his gallant action of retaking his vessel some years ago from the British; after which he retired on a fine farm at Canaan and lives very gentealy and clever, and is said to be very worthy good man.

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#### CHURCH SUBSCRIPTION.<sup>2</sup>

The Subscribers, sensibly impressed with the importance of a strict observance of the Lords day, and the duty of worshipping the Deity in a language generally understood; and there being but one church in the Village of Claversack, and the service performed in that unintelligible to many pious and well disposed persons.

In duty to our God, to the community, and to the rising generation, for the promotion of morality and religion, for the happiness and prosperity of the Village, We do severally promise to pay the Vestry of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this place, when such Vestry shall be legally

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<sup>1</sup> Killian Hogeboom was appointed clerk of Columbia County, January 8, 1802, succeeding Jacob R. Van Rensselaer. He remained in office until June 14, 1808.

<sup>2</sup> Of unknown date, but inserted in this place because of the remarks contained in Joseph Webb's letter, above.

organized; the sums annexed to our respective names, to be by them applied, to the purchase of a lot of ground, and erecting a church and such other uses as they may deem most proper to advance the cause of knowledge and virtue.

J. Rutsen Van Renselaer one hundred & fifty dollars  
Dollars Cents

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FROM JOHN WEBB.

SALISBURY, 7th March, 1802.

Dear Brother:

I wrote you a few days since that a Mr. Daniel Nicols had an ox that would weigh from eight to nine hundred, and that you could have it at the market cash price; that such been was selling at at Hudson at six dollars per hundred delivered at Claverack. He is waiting for your answer; he sais it will have from one hundred and twenty to thirty pounds of tallow. He expects the mony on delivery. I wish you to write him as soon as possable. Write him, as I expect the latter part of next week to go from this. I have agreed to sell Mr. Phineas Chapin the house I now live in, at the rate of two hundred pounds L[awful] M[oney]; he will pay you for your seventh at the same rate which your seventh will come to £28. 11. 3; then your fifth of a seventh, being your part of our Sister's estate, will be five pounds fourteen shillings and  $3\frac{1}{2}d$ , for which he will pay you in ninety days. I expect to leave this some time in May for my farm in Canaan with my family. We was happy to hear that our sister had a son and was very comfortable. Mrs. Webb joins me in love to you all. I am affectionately yours. Nicols lives in this town.

JOHN WEBB.



FROM DAVID THOMAS.

My Dear Sir:

WASHINGTON, April 11, 1802.

Yours of the 31st ultimo I have received and thank you for your attention to Polly. I have received a letter from her in New York. She arrived there safe yesterday week, but declines visiting Washington this spring, as the session is so nigh closing. I am of opinion that we shall adjourn in about 10 days.

With respect to our friend Dr. Malcom he may rest easy. I have no apprehensions that he will be removed. It is possible, however, that the office may be vacated, tho I question very much whether that will take place or not. I find the emoluments of the office only about 322 dollars a year, but this is a slim item in the expense of a family.

As to the suggestions respecting yourself, you having abandoned the object before you closed your letter a reply is unnecessary. It will, however, always afford me great happiness to have it in my power to promote the wishes of friends like Genl. Webb.

I am sorry to hear from Polly that our dear sister Jane is troubled with rheumatism.

Present my love to all my friends the family in gross, and particularly to my dear sister Webb, and believe me in sincerity cordially yours &c.,

DAVID THOMAS.

---

FROM JAMES STUART.

Dear Sir:

NEW YORK, April 24, 1802.

Not until this afternoon could I get an answer from *Dr. Wilson*. He says that I may rely on his paying the five



hundred dollars to me on account of Judge Palmer, so that you may be easy on that head.

This day a ship has arrived from *Cowes* in England and brings news to 14 March, that the Congress at *Amiens* has broke up without signing [a] *Definitive Treaty*, the English government having [have] order *thirty* sail of the line immediately for sea. This will be no bad thing for *our country*, altho unfortunate for others. Wishing you health I am your wel wisher, &c.,

JAM. STUART.

No. 10 William street.

---

FROM JAMES WATSON.

NEW YORK, July 19, 1802.

Dear Sir:

Ogden's note I believe to be paid. I passed it away last fall with an abatement of 7 per cent discount.

I have not heard from Bayard on Vining's business. The sale of Jim is acceptable on any terms. I wish to know how much land is held for him. If the title be unquestionable and the deed to me or yourself, what hinders my conveying the lands so long held in trust for you? I wish to do it while we are both alive. I expect to take my journey in a week or two and shall probably be at Claverack. With best respects to Mrs. Webb, I am your your obdt. and most Hble. Servt.,

JAMES WATSON.

FROM JAMES WATSON.

NEW YORK, October 31st, 1802.

My Dear Sir:

Mr. Doe called upon me and I stated to him the nature and course of the transactions respecting the lands.

He appeared to be well satisfied and I am persuaded will endeavour to make others so. I supposed you had done with the Ludlows, and that no obstacle remained to my conveying the property to you and riding myself of a trust very delicate in its nature, and at no time since I understood it perfectly conformable to my ideas of propriety.

It is no ways probable that Mr. James Ludlow will call upon me about the business. If he does I can refuse to communicate at all with him about it, but I can make no representation to him different from what I have done to Mr. Doe.

As I have unwittingly been drawn into this business I am desirous to render you every honest and honorable service in it, and to extricate myself from all responsibility in law and equity that may result from it.

I know nothing about the mortgages of which you speak, nor indeed of anything else except what was necessary for my own government thus far. Twelve years this property has been in my possession. I do not remember ever to have given you any authority to dispose of it. The purchasers and payers of rent to you are not secure. My death might involve them in serious difficulties. These things ought not to be so. A plan must be immediately adopted to set them all to rights. Hitherto I have been inattentive to the subject, perhaps culpably so. I pray you to state precisely everything you have done, and to

do nothing further until I have determined what I ought to do. I am with perfect cordiality your sincere and Hble Servt.

JAMES WATSON.

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FROM WILLIAM CONSTABLE.

My Dear Webb:

I did not hear till Tuesday that you were in town and, behold you, I am laid up today from having travelled yesterday in the wet. Come and see us I pray you. I will call for you tomorrow and bring you to dinner and send you back, if you will not stay all night which you may as well do. Yrs.,

WM. CONSTABLE.

Thursday, [NEW YORK, November, 1802.]

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FROM DAVID THOMAS.

WASHINGTON, February 8th, 1803.

Dear Sir:

I should have wrote you before, but generally having engagements on hand, and as I have left the pleasure of corresponding with the family principally to Polly, my leisure hours have been devoted to my immediate constituents. I believe I have wrote you once, and sent you now and then a Washington Federalist; but as I don't take that paper myself it has not been in my power to send them regularly.

Polly gives you all the news as to her parties and amusements. This evening we have an invitation to spend it at Genl. [Henry] Dearborn's, but decline the pleasure. Polly

begins to be tired of gay life. Yesterday she received the Marquis de Casa Yrujo's <sup>1</sup> card to four partys for the four Wednesdays while we are to remain here. These undoubtedly will be brilliant, as he has lately received this royal present for himself and heirs.

Polly says she cannot write this evening, and as no doubt all the family wish to hear often from her and her husband I have wrote this scrawl. Several persons, ladys and gentlemen, are now in the room, and had not ten minutes before closing the mail when I began, so that you must judge of it accordingly.

Give our joint love and compliments to our Sister Caty and to all the family, and accept yourself the assurance of my high consideration.

DAVID THOMAS.

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FROM JAMES A. BAYARD.

WASHINGTON, 16th February, 1803.

Sir:

The state of your business in Delaware has not varied since the date of my last letter. There is a tract of land which has commonly been estimated at £1500 which remains of Vinings estate. If a sale were forced, and no one having an interest to raise the price to the full value attended, in all probability it would be sacrificed.

There is a mortgage of £1000 before your judgment. It is however only a collateral security, and what is due on it I do not know. There are other incumbrances, but I

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<sup>1</sup> The Spanish minister who married Governor McKean's daughter, and gave no little anxiety to the American government by his diplomatic behavior.

cannot name the amount. I fear the debt is lost. It is possible a remnant of it may be saved.

If things turn out better than I suppose them, I will lose no time in communicating the good news. I am respectfully, your obdt Servt.,

J. A. BAYARD.

---

FROM THOMAS M. MANN.

HUDSON, July 12, 1803.

Dear Sir:

I received your message by Doctor Malcolm stating that the money due on our joint account is ready for me, on condition that I send out to your house for it, a ceremony which I shall conform with pleasure. The amount of our joint account for inoculating, testing and attendance on your family as delivered to you by Doct. Malcolm is fourteen dollars, which you [will] please to pay the bearer Mr. Holly, and this shall be your receipt in full therefor. Very respectfully yours,

THOS. M. MANN.

---

FROM JOHN WEBB.

CANAAN, December 1st, 1804.

Dear Brother:

Your letter dated the 10th November was yesterday handed [me] by Mr. Taylor after it had been by the post through mistake carried to Litchfield, and where else I cannot say. It gave us all sincere pleasure to hear that you was well, or rather better than you had been, and that your family were in health. We promised ourselves the pleasure of seeing our sister and yourself here before this, but my Mrs. W[ebb] sais she now gives up the idea of your



comeing. Please to remember us affectionately to our sister and the children.

Was it in my power to loan you a sum of mony I would with pleasure. Such has been my expense in defending against an unjust suit, that I have been obliged to pay nearly two thousand dollars cost, though I beat them. Not only that the death of John King, Esq, makes me meet with a loss of two thousand nine hundred dollars, and I have been obliged to advance mony in an unjust sute brought by J. Seagrove, though I expect in the end I shall receive a large sum. But when a law suit ends you know is uncertain. Not a farthing of my sister's property have I sold, of yours, or any of the heirs. You have been told long since that you were to sell if you please your part to Mr. Scovill and Chapin. As for the next proceeds of the Stamford estate, it went to recover the Hoskin farm, sold to Scovill, and the other pieces of property which I mentioned to you. I wish not by letter to go into explanations. But I have no monies of yours or any other persons in my hands. But God knows how willingly would I gratify you if in my power.

Yes poor Barrell is no more. A more worthy character does not exist. He has left a worthy sett of children who will feel most sensibly his loss. May God protect them.

Let me request you to come and bring our sister and as many of the children as you please. We will try to make their time pass as agreeable as we can in our Hutt. I am wishing you health prosperity and happiness, here and hereafter. Your affect Br., J. WEBB.

P. S. If your sons want their colts kept this winter they shall fare as my horses, free of expence.

## J. CARVER TO DR. JAMES CLEMENTS.

Dear Clements:

CLAVERACK VILLAGE, May, 1806.

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Genl. Saml. Webb, a gentleman to whose friendship and urbanity of manners I am much indebted during my residence in this part of the country.

It is I trust more than sufficient to say that Genl. Webb was the friend and companion of our much lamented General George Washington during the whole of the Revolution.

Any attention that the vacation of business will permit you to show Genl. Webb during his stay in York will confer a lasting obligation on Yr. friend,

J. CARVER.

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FROM HENRY LIVINGSTON.

Dear General:

JOHN'S TOWN, August 9, 1806.

After leaving you today at Fite Miller's I have altered my intentions of passing thro Hudson. I shall (I hope) see Mr. Van Ness on Monday at Albany, when I will fully converse with him on the subject that employed our attention today, and I shall hope that everything will be made agreeable to you. I am, sir, with best respects,

your Humbl Servt.,  
H. LIVINGSTON.

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FROM DAVID THOMAS.

My Dear Sir:

REP. HALL,<sup>1</sup> 15th December, 1806.

Here we have a prodigious severe winter for this place; the sledding is very good and the Potomac closed. Have

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<sup>1</sup> Hall of Representatives, Washington.

not heard whether the cold weather extends to the North River or not. We are going on very cool and with much harmony.

Burr's movements excites much interest in the public mind. His real object is not satisfactorily understood; he covers it under a land speculation. It may be true, but I do not believe it. At all events he will be defeated.

From the Sabine river we are anxiously waiting for important intelligence, uncertain whether it don't bring in the news of bloody noses.

I wrote Polly last evening. Give my love to her and all the family. Yours affectionately in haste,

DAVID THOMAS.

Genl. S. B. Webb.

---

FROM JOSEPH WEBB.

WETHERSFIELD, April 9th, 1807.

Dear Brother:

Mr. *Bowles* says he's going to Claverac in half an *hour* and begs I would write if but one *line* to you. I am extremely busy getting my fences and things ready for my garden, and the variety of the thousand little etiquets that are indiscribable makes me like a hurrid mortal, and *yet*, altho I have written you a very long circumstantial letter after we left you to which I have not received a line, so direct and certain opportunity offers that I can't but write a few lines just to say we are *here so so*, pretty well, yet as Shakespear says only *so so*. For the Influenza or some other *frenzy* makes some derangement from being quite as we wish; yet we move and have a being in this strange [*torn*] and endeavor to make the best of this transi-

tory *pilgrimage* [torn] for Life passes away, and what we call a long period is but a short real *duration*. So much by way of begining, and by way of apology.

My Mrs. W[ebb] in this hurry has gone to put you up a few garden seeds; but she tells me the season was too unfavorable last *year* to gather seeds as usual, but she has some which she will put up with *pleasure*. As for family news the bearer, Mr. Bowles, can tell you that Colo. Chester's wife has lost her mother, the aged and worthy dear woman, Mrs. Huntington, who she buried last Saturday week. Colo. Chester and she went down in their chaise to the *funeral* and returned but last Monday. The old lady was eighty odd, had a happy exit. Both Colo. Chester and his wife often ask after you, and most ardently want to see you. Indeed I think you had better take yourself and daughter in a chaise and visit your Wethersfield friends this spring. You will find it's nothing, the roads are fine to what they used to be. Mrs. Barrell and her two sons are yet with me. Besides this Charles and Henry have spent three weeks here since I was at your house, as I wrote you, two fine young fellows. Since my writing about them their goods have arrived in *Boston*, and they got back just in season to receive and open them. They wanted much to visit you, but the season would not permit. I have not time to add only that [all] desire their best love to their Uncle and his dear [wife], and that I wish to hear from you [when opportunity offers], and that I am most sincerely yr. afft svt and Br.,

JOS. WEBB.

Say Compliments to Mr. Jo. Thomas, Uncle H[ogeboom], your Father's family, etc. Capt. Wait G is well



except a little touch of the rheumatism, etc. Doct. Moseley and his family are well. I mention this as his brother lives in your vicinity. Elias Morgan's three children are yet with me. He's at St. Croix. Hays at Gadulepue, Antigua, or perhaps by this time arrived at St. Croix with Morgan, and they may be here the beginning of next month. Tho I expect Hays, I hardly expect *E. M.* untill July. Both of them I believe are doing very well; but navigation is uncertain business unless managed with the greatest care, but if rightly conducted rapid fortunes are made by it. Witness our neighbor Justus Riley, who doubtless is worth two hundred thousand dollars; but I need not single him out. I wish often as possible to hear from you as we all feel so anxious for you and your dear children. I hope the good Mrs. Thomas did not think hard of me that I saw so little of her while at *Troy*. Colo. C[hester] and his wife do much urge your coming here, and say they now really hope sometime or other to call on you in their way to Albany. I rather think Elizabeth will be married about the first of June.

Fryday Morning, April.

Dear Brother I wrote the above last evening, supposing old [Bowles] was going off then in about 15 minutes; but by the chapter of accidents aiding and assisting the Chesters, &c., he has been detained, and gives me a little opportunity to add. Since writing the *above* I have seen Lockd. Belden. He tells me he has received a most friendly, polite and attentive letter from you, and says you had not then received my Letter. Soon after I got home I wrote you a letter to make you laugh about our journey. I hope you have received [it]. Tho there were no secrets that I



can recollect, yet it was the funny jaunts we had, or rather a funny description which I thought would make you laugh heartily at us, then pity and scold at us that we did not stay. But Belden's business was such that I let him dictate about staying or going; but if you have not received my letter, let me tell you we got to Millers very well; after that no snow; we went two miles afoot towards Ancram in company with a clever Dutchman from Claverack that persuaded us to turn off to the south from the turnpike. This was when we turned off only 17 miles from Salisbury. We twisted and twisted about, dodged here and there, and after going down to the N. East on the oblong plain where Dibble lives, near night found ourselves on another turnpike road, and that night only got to Salisbury, six miles from General Webb. Belden and I walked every step of the last twelve miles. While at Salisbury that night it snowed, so that next day we got only to Maj. Webb's. The next night instead of snow or freezing I got rain, and spent another day with Major Webb. The next hired, waggon and horses and got home in one day from the Major's; but [no] more of this as Bowles waits for my letter.

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FROM DAVID THOMAS.

WASHINGTON, November 2, 1807.

My Dear Sir:

I hope by this time you have at least so far recovered your health as to enjoy the news of the day. But we have very little news here of any kind. We are all in suspense as to the event of the pending questions between this nation

and Great Britain, looking with anxiety for dispatches from our Ministers at London.

Our House is organized, but we lay now on our oars, doing very little.

Burr, Blennerhasset, &c., &c., have passed through this place in company with Luther Martin, it is said to Baltimore, where Martin is agoing to give those choice spirits a sumptuous entertainment.<sup>1</sup>

Give my love to Polly and all our family, and with my sincere prayers for the restoration of your health believe me, my dear Brother and friend, yours etc. affectionately,

DAVID THOMAS.

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<sup>1</sup> See Henry Adams, *History of the United States*, III, 444.

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